

# BULLETIN

## A *of the* AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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# THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

A non-profit institution incorporated Feb. 2, 1927, in the County of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania. By the terms of the Charter, the Corporation has no stockholders and exists for the sole purpose of promoting the culture and improvement of the IRIS.

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Beardless and Species—Dr. Lee W. Lenz, c/o Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, Calif.  
Dwarf Iris—Walter Welch, Middlebury, Indiana.  
Editorial—Geddes Douglas, Franklin Rd., Brentwood, Tenn.  
Exhibition—Mrs. Fern Irving, 4612 Saratoga, Omaha 11, Neb.  
Membership—W. F. Scott, Jr., Sassafras Lane, Ferguson 21, Mo.  
Photographic—Don Waters, 303 Clinton St., Elmore, Ohio  
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*"Last year we visited fifty gardens,  
large and small . . . "* —HAROLD W. KNOWLTON

*Seventh President of the American Iris Society*



Nashville proved something more than a whistle stop for president-to-be Knowlton (above left). Here he pauses for a leisurely look at the Wills seedling patch. Though late in season, Pinnacle type amoenas are in abundance. Wills' amoenas stem from such varieties as At Dawning, Happy Days and Fair Elaine, and, are contemporaries of, rather than derivatives of, the famous visitor from New Zealand. photo by hull



## THE PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

THE EDITOR has asked me as the newly elected president of the Society to write a foreword for this issue of the Bulletin. After four years of service as president, Judge Rogers has declined another term, and the directors have given me the honor and responsibility of succeeding him. The society is now active and prosperous. Starting thirty-two years ago with a group of sixty-five members it has grown until now it has over 4,500 members distributed over the United States, Canada, England and other countries. It is to me a continual source of surprise that so many persons are interested in one flower.

I have been a member of the American Iris Society since 1929, served three years as Regional Vice-President of Region No. 1, have been a director for four years, and for the past three years have acted in the nominal office of vice-president, and the extremely arduous office of Chairman of the Awards Committee. Mrs. Knowlton and I have in the last few years visited iris gardens from Massachusetts west to Oregon, and south to Texas and Louisiana. Last year we visited 50 gardens, large and small. Everywhere we met delightful people and made pleasant friends. The nice people we meet mean more than the iris we see.

I am very fortunate in having able and co-operative directors and officers to help carry on the work of the society. Marion R. Walker of California is first vice-president and chairman of the Awards Committee, and under his guidance our Awards and Symposium will be in able hands. Our funds are in the efficient hands of Carl Schirmer, who as treasurer tells us how much money we can spend. It is comforting to know that we have a back log in government bonds, which our treasurer will not let us spend if he can help it.

The office of the society is located on Franklin Road, Brentwood, Tennessee, a suburb of Nashville. There we have our own office, where Geddes Douglas, our secretary and editor, manages the affairs of the society. I do not know what we would do without him. Assisted by Miss Gladys Williams and Miss Kate Blackwell he keeps the records of the society, edits the Bulletin, answers the myriad letters that come to his office, and on the side raises some good irises, does a little fishing, and runs an automobile tire business. In spite of all this, he keeps on smiling.

With the creation of the new Arkansas-Oklahoma region, we now have 22 regions. The Regional Vice-Presidents who have charge of these regions are the ones who make the wheels go around. The success of the society depends in large measure on them and we have been very fortunate in the persons who have given their time and effort to this

*(Continued on page 85)*



# 1953 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

W. F. SCOTT, JR., *Chairman, Membership Committee*

You can get a Life Membership in the American Iris Society—for free—and it would not be too difficult a thing to do, either. That will be the National First Prize in the 1953 Membership Campaign. The second prize will be a Five Year Membership—and that's not hay, as the saying goes!

There are many of the Society who will say: "What, another membership campaign! Why do we have to have them? Why not just go about our business, and let those who want to join, join—and quit trying to persuade a bunch of half-interested people to join, only to have them drop out at the end of a year or two?"

There are two reasons why we must have another membership campaign: first, the iris was not brought to its present high level of development by just a few people, nor by seeking to limit interest in it. If that development is to continue, we must continually create new and wider interest in the iris. Second; the financial facts of life (1953 style) require that our membership be maintained as near the 5,000 level as possible; and the only way to *stand still* is to go forward. That paradox is explained by the fact that there is a continual erosion of our membership, from one cause and another, and in order to offset that natural decline, we must continually seek—not just "accept"—new members.

## Many Find Lasting Interest

It is true that a large proportion of the members gained by any campaign drop out at the end of a year or two. But it is also true that another—though smaller—percentage find lasting interest in irises, and become permanent members. It is those new, permanent, members who we need, to offset the old, permanent members lost each year by reasons of health or changes in circumstance.

It is those new permanent members who will be the hybridizers of tomorrow; the officers of the Society of tomorrow, and the "old timers" of tomorrow.

In past membership campaigns we have learned that no one pattern of campaign may successfully be impressed upon all Regions. Each Region is different, and the members in it think differently. A plan which might work wonderfully well in one Region, would be a flop in another. Therefore, in 1953, each Regional Vice-President will be free to organize the individual Region exactly as suits best.

WRITE YOUR REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT TODAY AND GET THE DETAILS OF YOUR REGIONAL CAMPAIGN!

All campaigns, Regional and National, start January first, and end July first. Prizes will be awarded within each Region, according to the plan of the Region. **WRITE YOUR REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT TODAY!**

While it is reasonable to set up a Regional campaign upon a simple basis of the winner being the one who gets the most new memberships; such a plan would be unfair upon a National basis. Consider, for instance, how many more memberships a Chicago member might be able to get, without moving far from home, with the possibilities confronting a member in Idaho, or Utah!

### Prizes Awarded on Percentage

To even this up, the National prizes will be awarded upon the *Percentage* of membership gain of the contestants. For instance; if one Region had a total membership (as of January 1, 1953) of 100—and the Regional Winner secured 10 new members, that would be a Percentage gain of 10%. On the other hand, if another Region had 400 members, and one of its contestants got 20 new members—that would be a *Percentage* gain of only 5%. That seems the only fair way of levelling wide population differences which exist in various Regions.

You probably know that the dues were changed this year. They now look like this:

Annual Membership .....	\$ 4.00	(Was \$3.50)
Triennial Membership .....	10.50	(New offer—saves money)
Sustaining Membership .....	5.00	per year (No change)
Family Membership .....	5.00	per year (No change)
Life Membership .....	75.00	(No change)

The most important reason for the change was because of the excessive costs which arise in handling one-year memberships. When a member's dues are payable, and unpaid, the Nashville Office cannot abruptly remove the card from the files. No; a series of letters must go to the member, to discover whether it is simple procrastination, or a disinterested member who intends to drop out, which has delayed the dues payment. Meanwhile, issues of the BULLETIN are continued—so that a “drop-out” may get five, or even six, issues of the BULLETIN, instead of the proper four. All those things cost money. A Three Year membership largely eliminates the trouble, and will save a great deal of time and money for the office.

### Contest Rules

In recognition of this, the membership campaigns will give added weight to those Three Year memberships, as you will see by these rules, which will govern the National Campaign:

1. The campaign starts January 1, and closes July 1, 1953.
2. New Annual Memberships will count as *One* membership.
3. New Triennial Memberships will count as *Five* memberships.



4. A National First Prize of a Life Membership in the American Iris Society will be awarded to the member securing the greatest Percentage Gain in the membership of any Region.
5. A National Second Prize of a Five Year Membership in the American Iris Society will be awarded to the member securing the second greatest Percentage Gain in the membership of any Region.
6. Duplicate First and Second Prizes will be awarded to the Vice-Presidents of the Regions where the First Prize Winner and the Second Prize Winner live.
7. The Percentage Gains will be computed upon the basis of paid-up memberships of each Region, per the Nashville Office records, as of January 1, 1953.
8. Each Regional Vice-President will report the name and address of the member of his Region who secures the greatest number of new memberships during the period of the campaign, together with a tally-sheet, showing names, addresses, and types of membership, for all new members secured by such Regional Winner. The same information will be reported for Second Place Regional Winners. This information must be in the hands of the Membership Committee by July 15, 1953, or it will not be tallied in the National Campaign.
9. The Membership Committee will calculate the Percentage of Gain figures, and will announce the Winners of the National Prizes not later than August 1, 1953.
10. An old member whose dues are two full years in arrears according to the Nashville records, will be counted as a new member. An old member whose dues are not two full years in arrears will not be counted as a new member.

So—before you do another thing—WRITE TO YOUR REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT AND ASK FOR THE DETAILS OF YOUR REGIONAL CAMPAIGN!—and then get busy signing up those Three Year Memberships! Concentrate on those Triennial memberships—just think, by finding just *ten* of that type of member, your “score” would be *Fifty*—so, particularly you members who live in the “wide open spaces,” concentrate on the Triennials!

As for the Family and Sustaining Memberships—you can get credit of “5” for getting 3-Year memberships of those categories, likewise. The price is 3-times the annual rate.

The Society needs your help—and you can make your help well worthwhile to yourself, by winning Regional prizes, or National Prizes, or both. The time is NOW!

# The Thirteenth Annual Symposium

HAROLD W. KNOWLTON, *Chairman, Awards Committee*

All of the members of the society were invited to take part in the 1952 Symposium and to pick their 100 favorite irises. The twelve previous symposiums from 1940 to 1951 had been conducted by the accredited judges. In 1952, ballots were received from 1,112 members, approximately 25 per cent of the total membership. As in previous years, the ballot was a selected list of tall bearded irises. This year it was composed of 325 varieties, all of which had received Honorable Mention. The list included the 100 favorites of the past two years, and those which had received Honorable Mention in the past three years. The members were asked to check off the one hundred favorites. In addition, space was given for writing in other varieties not listed that had received Honorable Mention. All votes counted equally. There was no rating up as in previous lists.

The task of tabulating this large number of votes was divided up by asking each Regional Vice-President to tabulate the ballots from his or her region. They all responded to this request and I wish to thank them for their splendid co-operation. This gave a regional tabulation for each region and a number of regions are planning to publish these lists in regional bulletins. The list published in this issue of the Bulletin is a compilation of the reports from all 21 regions and England. Ola Kala heads the list receiving 1,009 votes out of the 1,112 votes cast. This iris first appeared in the symposium for 1944 where it listed No. 6. Since then it has been in all nine Symposiums, ranking as follows: 6, 6, 2, 1, 1, 1, (1950 Hall of Fame), 9, and 1.

The article entitled "Symposium Sidelights," by W. F. Scott, Jr., in the October Bulletin is worthy of careful study. The Symposium is in its nature a list of favorites, those that have had wide distribution and that are well liked by a great many. A fancier looking for the newest varieties should read the lists of High Commendations and Honorable Mentions in the Annual list of Awards. The votes of so many members of the society give a broad base to the list of the ones they like best. It is the consensus of opinion of many and not the opinion of a few.

It is interesting to note that this symposium made by the members, and that of last year made by 262 judges, are very nearly alike. While the rank varies in some instances, the lists as a whole vary in only seven instances, as follows:—

Varieties in 1952 list, not on 1951 list:—

Louvois  
Ming Yellow



Pierre Menard  
 Zantha  
 Lighthouse  
 Miss California  
 Christabel

Varieties on 1951 list, not on 1952 list:—

Deep Velvet  
 Easter Bonnet  
 Cordovan  
 Indiana Night  
 Red Valor  
 Radiation  
 Mattie Gates

There are twelve all-time favorites that have been on all thirteen symposiums, and nine others that have been on 10, 11 or 12 symposiums consecutively from the time of first appearance to date.

These lists are as follows:—

*Long-Time Favorites*

A. *Listed on all 13 Symposiums*—1940 to 1952, inclusive

Amigo	Golden Majesty
City of Lincoln	Great Lakes
China Maid	Prairie Sunset
Elsa Sass	Sable
Fair Elaine	The Red Douglas
Gloriole	Wabash

NOTE: In 1950 these were placed in a separate list called the Hall of Fame.

B. *Listed on 10, 11, or 12 Symposiums consecutively from time of first appearance on the list to 1952, inclusive:—*

Blue Shimmer	(10)
Daybreak	(10)
Elmohr	(10)
Golden Fleece	(12)
Snow Carnival	(10)
Snow Flurry	(12)
Spun Gold	(12)
The Admiral	(11)
Violet Symphony	(11)

## The 100 Favorite Irises of 1952

### *Symposium of 1,112 Members of the American Iris Society*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Year Introduced</i>	<i>1951 Rank</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1. Ola Kala.....	Sass, J. '43 DM	9	Deep yellow .....	1009
2. Sable .....	Cook, P. '38	25	Blue-black violet .....	948
3. Great Lakes .....	Cousins '38 DM	16	Blue .....	942
4. Blue Rhythm .....	Whiting '45 DM	1	Cornflower blue .....	939
5. Blue Shimmer ....	Sass, J. '42	3	Blue & white plicata .....	923
6. Lady Mohr .....	Salbach '44	6	Oyster white & chartreuse..	904
7. Elmohr .....	Loomis '42 DM	14	Red violet .....	896
8. Chivalry .....	Wills '44 DM	7	Medium blue .....	868
9. Snow Flurry .....	Rees '39	30	Ruffled white .....	863
10. Solid Mahogany ...	Sass, J. '44	15	Mahogany red .....	841
11. Pink Cameo .....	Fay '46	13	Pale cameo pink .....	809
12. Wabash .....	Williamson '36 DM	48	White & violet bicolor ....	797
13. Master Charles ...	Williamson '43	?	Mulberry-purple .....	789
14. Minnie Colquitt ...	Sass, H. P. '42	23	White & purple plicata ....	785
15. Bryce Canyon ...	Kleinsorge '44	12	Henna Copper .....	773
16. Mulberry Rose ...	Schreiner '41	21	Mulberry rose .....	771
17. Amigo .....	Williamson '34	46	Pansy purple bitone .....	739
18. Ranger .....	Kleinsorge '43	19	Red crimson .....	737
19. Helen McGregor ..	Graves '46 DM	5	Light blue .....	728
20. Azure Skies .....	Pattison '43	18	Pale lavender blue .....	724
21. Cascade Splendor..	Kleinsorge '45	11	Pink & apricot blend .....	708
22. Amandine .....	Douglas, G. '46	2	Lemon cream .....	685
23. Chantilly .....	Hall, D. F. '45	22	Pale orchid pink .....	683
24. New Snow .....	Fay '46	10	White .....	682
25. Cherie .....	Hall, D. F. '47 DM	4	Shell pink .....	676
26. Prairie Sunset ...	Sass, H. P. '40 DM	67	Rose Copper blend .....	671
27. Grand Canyon ...	Kleinsorge '41	47	Dark plum & copper blend	663
28. Berkeley Gold ...	Salbach '42	27	Medium yellow .....	646
29. Rocket .....	Whiting '45	32	Deep orange yellow .....	637
30. Tiffanja .....	De Forest '42	44	White & buff plicata .....	636
31. The Red Douglas..	Sass, J. '37 DM	65	Wine-red .....	626
32. The Admiral .....	Hall, D. F. '41	50	Intense blue .....	600
33. Dreamcastle .....	Cook, P. '43	26	Orchid pink .....	594
34. Lady Boscawen ...	Graves '46	17	White .....	585
35. Pinnacle .....	Stevens '49	35	White & primrose bicolor..	584
36. China Maid .....	Milliken '36	78	Pink blend .....	579
37. Argus Pheasant ...	De Forest '48	23	Brown .....	574
38. Cloth of Gold ....	Whiting '45	41	Deep yellow .....	574
39. Katherine Fay ...	Fay '45	36	White .....	571
40. Casa Morena .....	De Forest '43	40	Deep rich brown .....	564
41. Sylvia Murray ...	Norton '44	33	Pale blue .....	563
42. Missouri .....	Grinter '33 DM	72	Medium blue .....	557
43. Ormohr .....	Kleinsorge '37	88	Blue lilac .....	556
44. Cloriole .....	Gage '33	61	Ice blue .....	546
45. Gudrun .....	Dykes, K. '30	69	White .....	545
46. Three Oaks .....	Whiting '43	55	Rose, copper & blue blend..	545
47. Tiffany .....	Sass, H. P. '38	96	Yellow & violet plicata ....	539
48. Vatican Purple ...	Whiting '43	53	Deep purple .....	537
49. Desert Song .....	Fay '46	31	Cream .....	528
50. Lynn Langford ...	Hall, D. F. '46	49	Orchid & gold .....	525



<i>Name</i>	<i>Year Introduced</i>	<i>1951 Rank</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Votes</i>
51. Elsa Sass .....	Sass, H. P. '39	79	Sulphur yellow .....	520
52. Extravaganza .....	Douglas, G. '44	43	Cream & copper bicolor ....	515
53. Treasure Island ...	Kleinsorge '37	80	Yellow .....	513
54. Black Forest .....	Schreiner '45	29	Blue black .....	512
55. Fair Elaine .....	Mitchell '38	84	Yellow bitone .....	509
56. Matterhorn .....	Sass, J. '38	81	White .....	503
57. Firecracker .....	Hall, D. F. '43	56	Yellow & red plicata .....	502
58. Spanish Peaks ....	Loomis '47	20	White .....	502
59. Moonlight Madonna	Sass, J. '43	51	Lemon ice .....	500
60. Tobacco Road ....	Kleinsorge '42	66	Tobacco-brown .....	499
61. Los Angeles .....	Mohr-Mitchell '27	75	White & blue plicata .....	496
62. Distance .....	Cook, P. '46	38	Light blue .....	495
63. City of Lincoln ....	Sass, H. P. '36	87	Yellow & red bi-color .....	490
64. Cloud Castle .....	Graves '44	34	Pale wisteria blue .....	482
65. Harriet Thureau ..	Cook, P. '44	73	Orchid pink .....	482
66. Blue Valley .....	Smith, K. D. '47	24	Medium blue .....	480
67. Golden Fleece ....	Sass, J. '40	63	Lemon yellow & white ....	474
68. Garden Glory .....	Whiting '43	37	Deep wine red .....	473
69. Winter Carnival ...	Schreiner '41	63	White .....	468
70. Chamois .....	Kleinsorge '44	39	Chamois .....	464
71. Pink Formal .....	Muhlestein '49	45	Shell pink .....	463
72. Sharkskin .....	Douglas, G. '42	77	Warm white .....	458
73. Sierra Blue .....	Essig '32 DM	85	Tall blue .....	458
74. Arab Chief .....	Whiting '44	52	Gold & copper blend .....	457
75. Lothario .....	Schreiner '42	62	Blue bitone .....	451
76. Spun Gold .....	Glutzbeck '40 DM	76	Yellow .....	450
77. Mexico .....	Kleinsorge '43	70	Gold & red brown blend....	444
78. Louvois .....	Cayeux '36	112	Brown .....	439
79. Gypsy .....	Kleinsorge '44	60	Gold & chestnut brown ....	438
80. Ming Yellow .....	Glutzbeck '38	103	Yellow .....	435
81. Golden Majesty ...	Salbach '38	86	Golden yellow .....	426
82. Golden Treasure ..	Schreiner '36	95	Cream & yellow blend ....	422
83. Shining Waters ...	Essig '33	93	Blue .....	422
84. Bandmaster .....	Hall, D. F. '44	57	Medium blue .....	419
85. Fantasy .....	Hall, D. F. '47	42	Orchid rose .....	414
86. Daybreak .....	Kleinsorge '41	100	Golden pink, copper blend ..	405
87. Coldbeater .....	Kleinsorge '44	54	Chrome yellow .....	401
88. Pierre Menard ....	Faught '48	104	Blue violet .....	401
89. Violet Symphony ..	Smith, K. D. '40	58	Lilac mauve .....	401
90. Zantha .....	Fay '47	134	Deep yellow .....	398
91. Snow Carnival ....	Graves '42	71	White .....	391
92. Pretty Quadroon ..	Kleinsorge '48	59	Copper brown blend .....	390
93. Old Parchment ....	Kleinsorge '39	91	Pale cream buff .....	388
94. Arctic .....	Kleinsorge '40	98	White flushed yellow .....	385
95. Golden Russet ....	Hall, D. F. '46	90	Golden russet .....	385
96. Lighthouse .....	Salbach '36	108	Old rose & yellow blend ...	382
97. The Capitol .....	Maxwell '44	92	White .....	378
98. Miss California ...	Salbach '37	135	Amaranth pink .....	377
99. Christabel .....	Lapham '36	109	Red .....	373
100. Priscilla .....	Whiting '42	94	White .....	372

NOTE: The 1951 Rank was the Symposium of 262 *judges* of the society on a rated point system. The 1952 Symposium was made by the *members* of the society (including the judges) and all votes counted equally without rating up.

# THE 100 FAVORITE IRISES OF 1952 BY COLOR

Numerical position in 1952 Symposium follows variety name.

<i>Blue-white Self</i>		Spun Gold	76
Snow Flurry	9	Ming Yellow	80
<i>White-White Self</i>		Golden Majesty	81
New Snow	24	Golden Treasure	82
Lady Boscawen	34	<i>Orange-Yellow</i>	
Katherine Fay	39	Ola Kala	1
Matterhorn	56	Rocket	29
Spanish Peaks	58	Zantha	90
Priscilla	100	<i>Red Self</i>	
<i>Warm White Self</i>		Solid Mahogany	10
Gudrun	45	Ranger	18
Winter Carnival	69	The Red Douglas	31
Sharkskin	72	Garden Glory	68
Snow Carnival	91	Christabel	99
Arctic	94	<i>Lavender-pink Self</i>	
The Capitol	97	Chantilly	23
<i>Light Blue Self</i>		Dreamcastle	33
Helen McGregor	19	Lynn Langford	50
Azure Skies	20	Harriet Thoreau	65
Sylvia Murray	41	Fantasy	85
Gloriole	44	Miss California	98
Distance	62	<i>Tangerine Bearded Pink</i>	
Cloud Castle	64	Pink Cameo	11
Shining Waters	83	Cherie	25
<i>Medium Blue Self</i>		Pink Formal	71
Great Lakes	3	<i>Blue Plicata</i>	
Blue Rhythm	4	Blue Shimmer	5
Chivalry	8	<i>Purple Plicata</i>	
The Admiral	32	Minnie Colquitt	14
Missouri	42	Los Angeles	61
Blue Valley	66	<i>Yellow Plicata</i>	
Sierra Blue	73	Tiffanja	30
Bandmaster	84	Tiffany	47
<i>Dark Blue Self</i>		Firecracker	57
Sable	2	<i>Light to Medium Violet Self</i>	
Black Forest	54	Violet Symphony	
<i>Blue Bicolor</i>		<i>Blue Violet Self</i>	
Lothario	75	Vatican Purple	48
<i>Cream Light Yellow</i>		Pierre Menard	88
Amandine	22	<i>Red Violet Self</i>	
Desert Song	49	Master Charles	13
Elsa Sass	51	<i>Variegata</i>	
Moonlight Madonna	59	City of Lincoln	63
Golden Fleece	67	Mexico	77
Goldbeater	87	Gypsy	79
<i>Medium Yellow</i>		<i>Amoena Neglecta</i>	
Berkeley Gold	28	Wabash	12
Cloth of Gold	38	Amigo	17
Treasure Island	53		



Extravaganza	52	<i>Medium to Dark Blend</i>	
<i>Oncobreds</i>		<i>(Brown Predominating)</i>	
Lady Mohr	6	Bryce Canyon	15
Elmohr	7	Prairie Sunset	26
Ormohr	43	Grand Canyon	27
<i>Yellow-white Bicolor</i>		Argus Pheasant	37
Pinnacle	35	Casa Morena	40
Fair Elaine	55	Tobacco Road	60
<i>Light Blend (Yellow</i>		Arab Chief	74
<i>predominating)</i>		Louvois	78
Cascade Splendor	21	Pretty Quadroon	92
Chamois	70	<i>Rose Blend</i>	
Daybreak	86	Mulberry Rose	16
Old Parchment	93	China Maid	36
Golden Russet	95	Three Oaks	46
		Lighthouse	96

## NEW ENGLAND

### PLANS FOR 1953 MEETING

Tentative plans are being announced for the Annual Meeting to be held in New England in June, 1952. George H. Pride, vice-president of Region 1 sends the following convention plans:

Registration day will be June 3, on Wednesday. The first day of visits will be June 4, starting with the Barker Garden in Newtonville, Mass. and garden of Dr. and Mrs. Lowry in the morning. The afternoon will be spent at the garden of Mrs. Fraim and the Knowltons. The next day, the gardens of Mrs. Corey and Prof. Harrison will be visited in the morning and the Nesmith garden in the afternoon. The third day, June 6th, the gardens of Win Wheeler and Mr. McKee will be visited in the morning and the Buttrick garden in the afternoon. On the final day, Sunday, June 9, the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Brown of Wakefield, Mass., the Stone garden in Ashby and the garden of Ed Watkins in Concord, N.H. The banquet will be the night of June 6. Meetings are being held frequently, most of the committees are formed and hard at work and a full detailed account of everything will be available soon.

**Convention headquarters will be at  
Hotel Somerset, Boston, Mass.**

# *The Culture of Iris in Japan*

TOHICHI ITO, Tokyo, Japan

Beautiful flowers were blooming, with nature's blessing, in our land, though we lost the feeling for beauty because of the terribly strained emotion of the war. Little remained of iris culture as the gardens planted with colorful varieties were converted during the war into rice and potato fields.

I preserved my iris plants in a corner of my garden, and began to breed them in 1946. Now I have more than three hundred beautiful varieties.

In 1951 Mr. Milton Blanton visited my garden often and enjoyed these varieties with me. In 1952 Mr. Horace Bristol told me that he had never before seen iris as beautiful as these, and he made many color photographs of these varieties. Later, Mr. Blanton told me to write an essay on iris culture in Japan. He will introduce me to the Iris Society in the U.S.

## **History of the Japanese Iris**

The original iris plants grew wild in many districts of Japan, and the culture is very old; namely:

1. There are records of the culture dating back about five hundred years.

2. In 1781 several varieties were cultivated.

3. In or about 1840 Mr. Matsudaira began to breed Iris, and succeeded in getting more than two hundred beautiful varieties. These spread over many districts, and formed special local types as we now see them.

Mr. G. M. Reed, Botanical Garden of Brooklyn, New York, came to Japan in 1930 to establish the Japanese Society of Iris. The Society was progressing systematically when the war broke out. The war years resulted in the decline of the culture, and the decrease in varieties.

Nowadays, the course has turned to the direction of further development. The number of iris culturists is increasing, the Japanese Iris Society has restarted, and new research is progressing.

## **Classification of Japanese Iris**

A unified classification has not yet been established, meanwhile the following classifications are used:

1. *Based on place of production.*

- A. *Tokyo Type*

Most cultivated iris in Japan are the Tokyo Iris. This iris inherited





**KAGURASHISHI (Lion Dance Mask)**

A rare and choice variety since before the war.

the lines from varieties bred by Mr. Matsudaira in 1840 in Tokyo. The numerous varieties vary in color and type.

a. The terminal flower in bloom is situated higher than the leaves, and the flower stem is hard and straight.

b. The leaves of most grow upright and strong. Those blooming early have more leaves than the others.

c. This type is available for cutflowers, gardens, and Bonsai (dwarf culture in pots).

**B. Ise Type**

This iris is cultivated in Mie Prefecture.

a. The petals are narrow, long and hanging. The distinctions of this variety are that the leaves grow upright and higher than the flower stem. It is used in flowerbeds and gardens because of its enchanting beauty.

### C. *Kumamoto, or Higo Type*

This type is bred, and was developed in Kumamoto Prefecture, Kyushu Island.

a. The flowers are generally big, several varieties being 10 inches in diameter. The petals over-lap, and are crinkled like silk crepe. Most flowers flourish late in season. The flower is situated higher than the leaves.

b. Most leaves bend at the top, while a few grow upright.

c. The flowerstem is easily blown down by wind and rain, because the flowers are large and heavy. For this reason, they are mostly grown in pots, and appreciated in the house.

The abovementioned is the popular classification, but it is difficult to draw an exact distinction between these types. Several of the Tokyo iris and Kumamoto iris resemble each other.

### II. *Based on flowering season.*

The natural flowering season in Tokyo districts is about May 25th for the early varieties, and about July 5th for the late ones. Most Tokyo iris flourish in the middle of June, and most Kumamoto iris flourish late in June.

I classify the Iris flowers according to the flowering season mentioned above:

A. Earliest variety	Before 5 June
B. Early	Between 5-10 June
C. Middle	Between 10-20 June
D. Late	Between 20-25 June
E. Latest	After 25 June

### III. *Based on number of petals*

- A. 3 petal flowers
- B. 6 petal flowers
- C. Double flowers

### IV. *Based on form*

A. White	E. Deep indigo	I. Spotted
B. Violet	F. Pink	J. Picotee
C. Light purple	G. Reddish violet	K. Gradation
D. Indigo	H. Striped	





GARDEN PLANTING

### Situations and Circumstances

In Japan, lying between the latitudes of  $30^{\circ}$  and  $45^{\circ}$  N., we find here and there iris groups growing wild. It appears that the Japanese Iris is a very strong plant, and the territory of possible cultivation is rather extended. In the northern districts the iris grows where the temperature drops to  $40^{\circ}$  below zero in the winter, whereas in southern districts it grows where no frost appears. The iris prefers to make its home in marshes and swamps. However, from the fact that we find them growing in dried up marshes, we can conclude that the iris can also grow on normal dry land.

I knew from my cultural investigations that they can grow easily on dry ground with good watering.

In Tokyo districts, the leaves die in November as a result of frost. In spring buds sprout out. In June leafbuds grow thickly, and flowerbuds are in bloom. At the end of September rootstems begin to grow fat, and in the middle or end of October flowerbuds are formed. The luxurious growth of leaves and fatness of rootstems depend on better fertilization, ventilation, and sunshine.

In the Tokyo area, buds which grow out in June or July form flowerbuds when they receive good care and fertilization. Also, when new

sections, separated from the old plant in July, are planted on August 1st after having been kept in cold storage, the flowerbuds form in autumn and bloom in the next spring as usual. This means that the iris can be cultivated in districts where summer is short. According to my experience, the iris with six or seven perfect leaves at the end of September can form flowerbuds and bloom perfectly in the following spring.

### The Soil

Most wild iris grow in marshes in the mountains. This soil is alluvial, formed by top soil from the mountains and fallen leaves. On deep alluvial fertile soil, iris grow thickly, in poor, shallow top soil the height of the plant is low, and the flowers are small. From this we can conclude that the soil of clay and leaf mold is most suitable for iris culture, as this is the type of soil in which they are found growing wild in Japan. As my farm is situated at a low elevation, and the soil is alluvial clay, the iris plants flourish. I use compost for pot culture. The compost is made in winter, and weathered enough after mixing two or three times to avoid the decay of rootstem, which has a few new roots after separation from the old plant. The separation and planting occur in June and July at my farm. The proportion of materials to make the compost is as follows:

Farm soil . . . . .	100
Cow manure . . . . .	20
Bone dust . . . . .	1

### The Manure

We see iris blooming on comparatively barren soil, but to have really beautiful flowers we must use a good quantity of fertilizer. Iris plants suffer less from too much fertilizer than other plants, and the method of fertilization is easier.

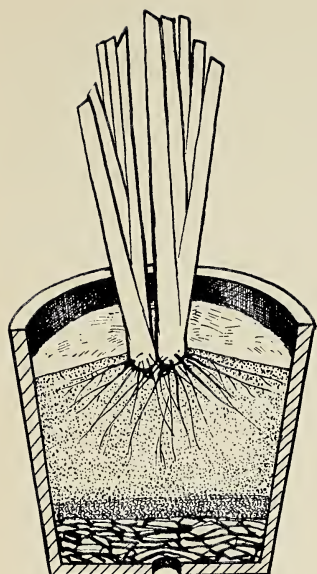
At my farm the proportion of three essential factors is as follows:

N	3	P	3	K	2
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The fertilizers containing these factors are fish meal, ammonium sulphate, super phosphate, rape seed meal, plant ash, potassium chloride and cow manure.

The newly transplanted plant is fertilized differently from the old plant. After the newly planted young plant has two or three leaves, it is fertilized with well weathered mixture, as any unmatured manure in the soil prevents the formation of new roots, and also causes decay of the young plant. When the plants are set out in June or July, the first fertilizing occurs at the beginning of August, and the second at the beginning of September, according to the results of the first fertilization. In the case of the plant which has not been transplanted, the first





TWO FLOWER-STYLE  
POTTING



SUMMER  
SEPARATION  
"NEW BUD"



SPRING  
SEPARATION  
"OLD PLANTS"

fertilization is applied as soon as blooming is over, and the second during the middle of August.

A bud stimulating fertilizer is given in early spring, after clearing away dead leaves. At this time a decayed extract of fish meal is used before watering. In the middle of April plant ash is given, and in the middle of May the matured extract of fish meal, or a mixed solution of ammonium sulphate and super phosphate are applied.

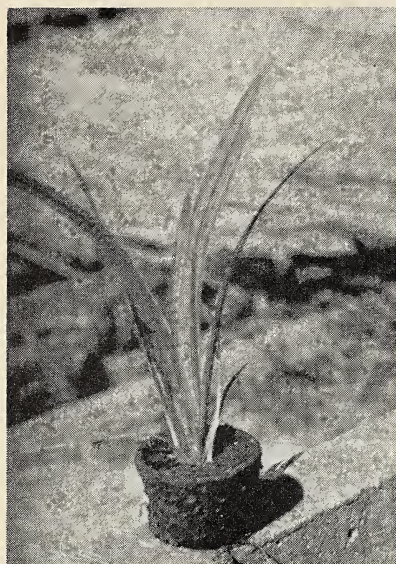
### Propagation

There are two methods of propagation, by seedling and by separation of plant. Separation is the popular method, while seedlings are used only for breeding new varieties.

#### A. *Seedling.*

Iris naturally bear seed well without help, unless it rains or blows heavily during blooming season. However, there are also sterile varieties and non-self pollinators.

To make a better variety, the stamen is taken away one or two days before flowers open, and pollen is put on the stigma on the day of flowering. This is done to avoid the degeneration by natural fertiliza-



SEEDLINGS

tion, which frequently occurs. As soon as the stigma is fertilized, the fruit begins to grow, and ripens at the beginning of September. When the seed is ripe, the fruit taken from the stalk is dried and the seed removed.

Two seasons, spring and autumn, are adapted to sowing.

a. *Sowing in Autumn.*

Iris can grow under relatively low temperature, while it takes about one month for germination of seed under the temperature of 15°C. Thus it is better to sow early in autumn. Dried seed is sown at the end of September after having been soaked in water for 24 hours and stored for ten days in refrigeration at 0°C. Weathered soil, made from decayed leaves, is used for

sowing in pot or flat with good drainage.

The thickness of cover soil is about 0.2 inch, and the watering is plentiful. After germination in the middle of October, the pot or flat is kept in a cold frame for wintering.

Early in April the seedlings are transplanted into pots or beds. One seedling is planted in a 3 inch pot, while in beds the plants are set five inches apart. In June or July the potted plants are transferred to five inch pots, and the bedded plants are moved to ten inches apart. By careful fertilization and watering, the plants will bloom in the following spring. Plants grown from autumn sowing have a higher percentage of blooming than those grown from spring sowing.

b. *Sowing in spring.*

Stored seed is sown on beds or flats in the middle of March. The seed germinates by the middle or end of April, with care taken for good watering. When the plants have three or four leaves, they are transplanted into three inch pots or in beds seven inches apart. In the latter half of July, the potted plants are transferred into six inch pots. These plants under normal care will mostly bloom in the next year. Good varieties are selected from these flowers.

### B. *Separation of shoot.*

The stem of iris is situated in the ground, and holds some nutriment. The joints of this stem have roots and buds. In proportion to the growth of buds, many roots come out, and new stems are formed in the ground, to become new individual stumps. There are two ways to separate these stumps.

#### a. *Separation in winter to spring.*

The stumps with enough stem and roots to be separated in this season can bloom and form buds in the same year, though the flowers are small. In the following year the stump becomes a good plant, after growing fat on new soil.

#### b. *Separation in summer.*

The separation at this season before flowering has the same results as that done in spring. The separation after flowering is done as soon as possible, and this results in the best plants, and is the popular method in Japan. To propagate plants only without expectation of flowers, as many buds as possible are separated in spring, and flower buds are cut off. Former year's rootstems with sleeping buds are used too.

In order to get stumps for propagation from the iris garden without changing the style or the garden, half of every plant is cut off, and the holes left are filled with well fertilized soil. By this method, one can extend the iris garden without preventing the year's flowering.

## Disease and Insects

Iris in Japan are not heavily damaged from insects and injurious disease.

### A. *Insects.*

#### 1. *Dichovrosis Punctiferalis*, Juenee.

Young worms eat the stems and leaves. Spray 1 part D.D.T. to 800 water.

#### 2. *Apamea Nictians*, L.

Young worms eat young stems and buds. Spray 1 part D.D.T. to 800 water.

#### 3. *Phytometra Festata*, Graeses.

This worm appears in April and May and injures the buds. B.H.C. sprayed.

#### 4. *Xylina Formosa*, Butter.

This worm eats leaves in April and May. Spray with D.D.T. and B.H.C.

### B. *Disease.*

#### 1. *Puccinia Iridis* (DC) Walk.

The attacked plant dies from rust spots.



## 2. Root rot.

The attacked plant should be dug up and burned.

## Cultivation

Some people tend to think that iris should be cultivated on marshy ground, as that is where most wild iris is found growing. Iris like a wet place, but they can be grown more easily on normal dry ground with plentiful watering. The popular method of cultivation nowadays is in dry fields, gardens, or pots.

### 1. *Culture on marshy ground.*

Many iris gardens are on marshy ground, ricefields and shallow ponds, due to the habits of wild iris, but also because it is beautiful to see them reflected in water.

After flowering in June or July, old plants are separated in pieces with three to five buds. Sometimes old plants which grow too thick fail to bloom. The plant pieces are set out twenty to thirty inches apart in staggered rows. The ground to be planted should be ploughed and fertilized with stable manure, and liquid fertilizer, as described under "Fertilization." The leaves are cut off at ten to fifteen inches to avoid injury from dryness or wind. In the middle of August when three or four leaves have grown and the plants have become vigorous, they are weeded, then fertilized with fish meal, super phosphate and plant ash. Care must be taken that the ground will not dry out, or that water will not go over the root crown. After the middle of November the water should be drained off to keep the ground dry.

In the middle of March the dead leaves or layer of straw which covered the plants through winter are taken away. Now the plants receive the budding fertilization, and care is taken to free them from injurious insects. The plants are fertilized with matured extract of fish meal two or three times in proportion to growth before blooming.

Immediately after blooming the flower stalks are cut, unless seed is required. Again the plants are fertilized with fish meal, bone meal, plant ash, etc., to continue healthy growth.

Plants are usually left in the same place for two or three years until they have reached maximum growth. For propagation, clearance, or rejuvenation of old plants which bear no flowers, plants are separated in March or April as described above. Plants separated in spring bear few flowers, but the growth of buds is vigorous, and the sprouting is better. For this reason, stumps with only two or three buds are planted out, and sometimes flowerbuds are cut off in the first year to enforce growth of plants. This method of planting in spring gives a better result in growth and flowering in the next year, than the autumn planting.



HOT SPRING SYSTEM

## 2. *Culture on dry ground.*

In the beginning of iris culture, people grew them where they were easiest to water, by a well or scullery. As it became known that iris grow and bloom easily on dry ground, too, people planted them in their gardens and fields. For dry land cultivation, a relatively low spot of garden or field is preferred, and beds are made low so as to hold rain, or drain water, and the place becomes like a pond.

On this bed the separated stumps with three or four buds are planted at a distance of twenty to twenty-five inches apart. After planting care is taken with good cultivation and watering to avoid dryness until November. In August or September the plants are fertilized with decayed extract of fish meal, as in the case of marshy culture. In November to prepare for wintering, watering is reduced, and the plants are protected with a layer of dead leaves or straw. At the end of March the protective layer is removed, and the plants are fertilized with thin liquid fertilizer, applied two or three times for budding. Until the blooming season, watering is continued, and care is taken against injurious insects. After this the same care is taken as in the case of marshy culture.

Naked rootstems without earth covering causes poor formation of roots, and slowness in growth. To prevent this, "earthing" is given



by means of compost manure. This is applied in the middle of March, June and November, according to the condition of rootstems.

### 3. *Pot culture.*

There are various methods of pot culture, of which the following are popular.

#### A. *One flower style.*

This style is to obtain one flower as beautiful as possible for iris exhibits, mainly the Kumamoto variety in the Kumamoto district. The separated plant piece with just the one best bud is cultivated in a seven inch pot, starting in June or July.

#### B. *Two flower style.*

This style is used for competition of the potted Kumamoto Iris flowers in the Tokyo area. In June or July two separated plant pieces with one good bud each are cultivated in a seven or eight inch pot.

#### C. *Bush style.*

Pot, cask or box of suitable size is used to plant three, five, or seven selected plants of one or various varieties. The number of plants is decided according to the size of the container and varieties. For example, three plants for a ten inch pot, five plants for a fifteen inch container.

Each piece is planted so as to touch the others, and all should face to the outside. Usually the pot culture is done in the final pot from the beginning. However, in my garden I plant in a small pot at first, and transplant to the final pot at the beginning of October before flower buds are formed, or in early spring after flower buds are already formed. In the latter case, only the plants with flowerbuds are transplanted. This method requires a small area, and the maintenance is simple.

Clay soil mixed with 20% cow manure and 1 or 2% bone meal, is piled up in January or February. In June after having been forked over twice and well weathered, the sifted soil is used for culture and the rough soil remaining in the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch sift is used at the bottom of the pot for good drainage. For single bud planting, four inch pots are used, for two or three buds six inch pots, and for seven buds eight inch pots. These are placed in large flats filled with water up to  $\frac{2}{3}$  the height of the pots. Before transplanting the leaves are cut off to ten inches. When two or three leaves grow out,  $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon fish meal is given the four inch pots,  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon to the six inch pots, and 1 teaspoon full for the eight inch pots. In the beginning of September when the leaves grow thickly, a little solution of superphosphate is given and the distance between the pots is widened, about two or three times the original distance. This stimulates the growth of rootstems by more sunlight and better air circulation. When there are not enough



flats to contain all the pots, the pots may be placed in a low place in the garden, and carefully watered.

At the end of September when the leaves grow thickly and rootstems are fat, the plants are transplanted into bigger finishing pots, from four inches into six, from six inches into eight, and from eight into ten. At this transplanting, care is taken not to injure the new roots and the rootstem is covered with compost. This transplanting to the finishing pots is sometimes done at the beginning of March, but September and October transplanting results in better formation of buds in the next year.

In November when the leaves die down, the pots are removed to a sunny place, and covered with layers of straw or dead leaves of about one or two inches, to prevent dryness. In the beginning of March, this covering is removed, the plants are fertilized with matured extract of rape cakes and again they are watered. Injurious insects are exterminated. At the end of April, matured extract of rape cakes mixed with a little solution of superphosphate is given to await flowering. Watering is never neglected.

#### D. *Bonsai* (*Dwarf culture in pot*)

The iris is a strong plant, and can be grown in a shallow pot of two or three inches depth, when water and nutriment are available. Several buds are cultivated in a pot, and admired. For this purpose varieties having the following habits are most suitable:

1. Dwarf variety
2. Narrow and short leaves
3. Vigorous
4. Small flowers
5. Single flowers are more admired than double

Plant pieces with one bud are planted two or three inches apart in a scattered pattern, as in normal pot culture. Soil used is the same, sifted through a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch strainer, with the residue being used in the bottom of the pot.

Planting season is from the end of June until the middle of July. Plants are given plenty of water, and the soil surface is covered with water moss to prevent dryness. When new buds begin to grow, the soil is fertilized with matured extract of rape cakes, mixed with superphosphate, applied two or three times. The pots are placed in a sunny corner to stimulate the forming of flower buds. At the end of November, the pots are covered with straw or dead leaves to prevent dryness. In the middle of March this cover is removed and the pots put in a sunny corner with good air circulation. Watering is to be done only to avoid withering and to keep the leaves narrow and small. The short plant with as many flowers as possible is most admired.

#### 4. *Off season culture.*

The following methods are used to profit from off season flowers.

##### *A. Cultivation utilizing hot spring water.*

This method is used in the hot spring districts at Kawatsu village, Kamogu, Shizuoka Prefecture. Hot spring water with the natural temperature of 78°F. is brought to this iris garden by means of earthen ware or bamboo pipes, and discharged on the surface of the gardens. The temperature at the entrance is 20°C., while at the exit the water is 15°C. The temperature most preferred is 20°C. The dimension of a garden in this area is anywhere from 1,600 sq. ft. to 4,900 sq. ft. The hot water is used in the hours from sunset to sunrise. During the daytime the garden is warmed by the sun. Plants grown by this method bloom in the middle of April. For this purpose the very early flowering variety "Hatsushimo" (The First Frost) is used. The planting of these gardens is done in June, and the rejuvenation by separation occurs once in two years.

##### *B. Cultivation utilizing well water.*

This method utilizing the relatively higher temperature of well water in winter, to that of the outside temperature, began in or about 1910 and now is used everywhere in Japan. The method most used is to utilize water which flows naturally from the well, but where that is not possible the pump must be used. Early flowering varieties are used in this culture.

After deep ploughing, a bed eight feet wide by 100 long from east to west is laid in the neighbourhood of the well. In the middle or end of June, adult plants of earliest flowering varieties are separated in pieces with two or three stumps, and these are planted in the bed at the distance of 3 x 6 feet, to get further treatment. From the end of December or early January until the middle of May, the well water is discharged onto the beds during the hours between one hour before sunset until one hour after sunrise. The beds are warmed by sunshine during the day. To prevent damage from cold wind in winter, a straw roof is fixed at the north side of the bed from the beginning of December until the end of March. Plants grown by this method bloom one month earlier than normal plants.

##### *C. Forcing in the Green House*

Whereas the flower buds of Iris are formed in the beginning or middle of October, the plant is brought into the green house in the middle or at the end of November. In the green house with continuous temperature of 15°C. the plant can bloom within 80 to 90 days. The use of artificial light at night is very effective, according to recent research.

#### D. Restraining

There is no record of restraining in iris culture, before the following:

For the breeding of iris, which I began several years ago, I wanted to get at the same time flowers of the very early flowering varieties which bloom in May and the flowers of varieties which bloom in July. For this purpose I dug up at the beginning of March the plants of very early flowering varieties and stored them in the ice box to plant in May. These plants flowered in the beginning of July, just the same as the late flowering varieties.



TOHICHI ITO, IRIS BREEDER

photo by blanton

In 1951 I stored at the beginning of March numerous plants of several varieties in the ice box. From the first of June until September 10th, I planted them out at one month intervals to investigate the flowering. By this experiment it became clear that the flowering comes within 45 to 60 days after planting. These cut flowers were welcomed in the Tokyo market and brought a high price, because there are few flowers in the middle of August, mid-summer.

In 1952 I stored in the ice box numerous plants of my own seedlings, dug up on March 3rd, and planted out on July 1st. Now (August 15th) these flowers are in full bloom and welcomed sensationally among the florists.

According to these experiments we know that we can perfectly restrain the flowering and we can get the flowers within 50 to 60 days when we want.

The plants are dug up carefully in winter, and stored in the ice box at the temperature of 0°C. To store plants I use a wooden box with the buds faced upwards.

The restrained plants are, of course, short and the flowers small. Meanwhile, I learned from the experiment this year, that the plants in pots, stored in the ice box, get better flowers than the above mentioned.



## A WORD ABOUT THE AUTHOR

We are indebted to Milton Blanton of Atlanta, Ga., for this very valuable contribution to our knowledge of iris culture. To quote Mr. Blanton: "When I first arrived in Japan during the summer of 1949 I contacted Mr. Takashi Tanahashi, a member of the Hemerocallis Society, living in Tokyo. Mr. Tanahashi acted as my friend and guide during my two year assignment in Japan. It was through him that I met some of the leading Japanese interested in azaleas, gladiolus, narcissus and iris. Mr. Tanahashi introduced me to Mr. Ito and on several occasions accompanied me when I visited Mr. Ito's garden.

"Mr. Ito was one of the limited number of persons in Japan who, through the war, saved a selected number of the better varieties of Japanese iris and who began to propagate them as soon as possible after hostilities ceased.

"I was especially impressed with Mr. Ito's method of culture. His best seedlings and named varieties are grown in his garden in cold frames to conserve moisture during the growing season. His frames are interspersed between beds of narcissus and gladiolus. He does not need to flood all his garden, just the frames containing the iris.

"Mr. Ito was born in a suburb of Gifu City, central Japan, on October 29, 1895. He graduated from Chiba Horticultural College in 1918 and after two years of military service became engaged in the nursery business in Tokyo. He had two grown children, a son and a daughter. Since the end of World War II he has accumulated a collection containing more than 300 varieties of iris. Many of his own introductions are considered much better than the pre-war varieties. Mr. Ito has not limited his hybridizing activities to iris alone. He is also interested in narcissus, gladiolus, botan (tree peonies) and pansies. This past summer, 1952, one of his gladiolus seedlings "Dream of Tokyo" (out of "Elizabeth, the Queen"), received wide acclaim when it was shown for the first time at the Hibiya Park Gladiolus Show in Tokyo."

—EDITOR'S NOTE.

### *The Iris and Its Culture*

*by Jean Stevens*

is a well illustrated book on iris containing 168 pages adequately indexed and contains an excellent glossary of terms used. It is especially valuable for its orderly presentation of the iris family. All orders for this volume should be sent to

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## GARDEN NOTES ON FERTILIZERS AND INSECTICIDES

FRANK CASSEL, Penna.

It is a hot late summer's night and several heavy thunder showers have deluged the garden today. I've found a dry spot along the main path leading to the garden house. Here and there are bright straight swords of iris looking fit after the long dry spell. I have been browsing again through the July bulletin marking things of interest and glad the bulletin comes four times a year and not once as an annual.

On page 66, F. C. Murphy inquires concerning the use of high-analysis water soluble fertilizers for leaf feeding or the general feeding of plants. I have used these high analysis fertilizers and haven't been able to come to any definite conclusions. I should think they would be very good as an early season pick-up, but their manner of use precludes using them as a main and steady source of nutrients. Note I say *steady* use. I have a planting and feeding guide for the use of one of the water-soluble fertilizers. Here are a few of the directions for when to feed the foliage.

Vegetables—The average is two to three weeks until maturity

Fruit trees—Every two weeks

Roses—Same

Annuals & Perennials—Same

Shrubs—Same

Iris—Every two weeks until blossoms appear

Rhododendron—Every three weeks during growing season

The amounts are not given. By this method one starts to spray the foliage from one end of the garden to the other. At the end of two weeks you start all over again. In the case of Rhododendron, you feed every three weeks during the growing season. When does the growing season begin or end? It is my understanding that properly mulched Rhododendron are always growing. They say the principle is to feed the plant and not the earth. I can see nothing wrong with starting with a healthy soil and having healthy plants. The only thing, of course, is that it is an old fashioned viewpoint. Personally, I don't have the time to feed plants that much. And I do recognize that different plants have different feeding habits. It is further claimed that foliage-fed plants will feed the soil. The function of the roots, besides holding the plant erect, is to forage in a healthy soil and extract nutrients for the plants' use. We are now asked to reverse this process. It isn't quite clear why we should by-pass the root system which is eminently fitted for its job. In spite of the foregoing I do use these fertilizers if a plant seems not to be able to feed itself. Where mulches are used and cause a

temporary nitrogen deficiency resulting in yellowing of leaves or poor growth, the use of water soluble fertilizers high in nitrogen are useful, in part on the leaves and the remainder beneath the mulch.

Iris leaves are vertical in position and hard surfaced rather than pubescent. The tendency would be for the fertilizing solution to run down the leaves and collect at the base of the stalk and around the rhizome. I would not like to say that harm might result but it doesn't seem as if the iris lends itself to leaf-feeding.

The value of good soil preparation is so apparent to the experienced gardener, or as the English say the "keen" gardener, that he often ends up in taking more interest and pride in his soil than in what comes from it. And rightly so, because the eternal mystery of the soil is far more absorbing than the continual search for new varieties of plants. In the one there is completion—in the other restless dissatisfaction.

I would like to see every gardener read Dr. Wynd's article "Feed the Soil" in the Scientific Monthly, April 1952. Written in non-technical language, it is highly readable and very sensible.

I should like to mention a few things in regard to fertilizers. In my garden it is necessary to remove the heavy clay and replace it with top soil before planting. Sometimes manures are applied to the top two or three inches and left to gradually break up the clay. In any case we have found the use of spent mushroom manure to give excellent results. We try to incorporate it through the top 4 or 5 inches of soil with an extra amount in the top inch. The breakdown of the manure results in a rich, loose loam with countless mycelium strands evident. Into this we dig a large amount of phosphate rock and potash rock which has the consistency of flour. The reaction of mushroom manure is highly alkaline, and of course is not to be used for ericaceous plants although we have used it in small quantities to induce a culture and then have brought about the proper acidity by the use of peat and other materials. I am not sure this is correct botanically, but it does seem to work.

For general all-season fertilizing we use Goulard and Olena's "Prizegro"\* a fish, blood, potash and boron fertilizer. Used with humus in its final stages of decay it produces excellent results. The nitrogen is in several forms and is released after different periods of time. This gets away from repeated feedings of other fertilizers. We also use cottonseed meal for ericaceous plants for nitrogen along with super phosphate. We rely entirely on potash rock for potash except what is to be found in the Prizegro. Bone meal is also used where plants tolerate lime. On an otherwise non-productive and originally disease-ridden soil this has been a good regime. Peat is used but doesn't seem to give the results that spent mushroom manure produces. It should be understood that every soil requires its own individual amendment and one should know his soil before trying what the other fellow advises.



In regard to insecticides we keep several. However, as of this writing, nothing has been sprayed this year. Borers are so bad in this district that year before last I was ready to burn all the iris. Since then we have doubled the number of varieties. This spring I had intended to spray all iris with the recommended spray of Fermate and DDT and nicotine sulphate, but we were too busy to do any spraying. We had no aphids and, at present, there are no signs of them. I found less than fifteen borers which I cut out and killed with a knife and removed all unsightly foliage. Only one got into a rhizome. Perhaps next year we'll have a rash of them again. Near-by gardens with isolated unattended patches of old iris are sources, and it is difficult to get anyone interested in hunting borers. Sometime this autumn I hope to spray with DEL-BETAR,\*\* an old insecticide and fungicide. That will be all. I am not advocating no spraying. Occasionally it may be necessary. I have a mental allergy to working in a garden filled with all sorts of strange poisons and DDT dust. I don't want to play with something about which I know nothing. If I use DDT on the iris and kill off the natural enemies of the red spider where am I? Then they will get into the evergreens and delphinium and so you have a never ending fight. A healthy garden soil and general cleanliness is your best ally. If a rose is unusually susceptible to black spot or mildew, let it die or get rid of it.

Markers in the garden are very important both to the gardener and the visitor. For some years I have used aluminum strips 1/32" thick, 7/8" wide and 6" long. The name is indented with an electrical marking tool. They are perfect markers—never rust—never lose the writing—never heave during winter. They are pushed into the ground to about on or two inches from the top and then bent over for easier viewing. I have tried other markers advertised in magazines. I finally settled for "PERMARKER"\*\*\* markers, a plastic label on a 14" non-corrosive steel support. I do not plant iris in patches but in curving rows or lines. I find that I can write five names on each label with the first name identifying the iris behind the label and the other names identifying the next four iris. This keeps the place from looking like a garden for markers. They also sell plastic labels which, cut in half, are fine for premanently labeling crosses or hanging from choice shrubs or trees with a loop of heavy copper wire. All my azaleas are so marked.

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\* Goulard & Olena, Skillman, New Jersey

\*\* Delbetar, Beckwith Gardens, Manchester Center, Vermont

\*\*\* Permark Company, One East 57th Street, New York 22, New York

# *Growing the Onco and Regelia Irises*

MRS. V. R. FREDERICK, Ohio

I have found that growing the oncocyclus and regelia irises, contrary to many things said and written, is not too difficult even here in the Midwest.

I find these aril irises, natives of Palestine, Syria and Turkestan, truly aristocrats of the iris family. Their exotic colors, speckled and veined in reddish violets, greenish whites, browns and yellows—even grays and blacks—are not comparable to any other garden flower.

Not only are the colors unusual, but the forms of these flowers are quite different from other irises. The onco *I. susiana* is almost ball-shaped; the large, perfectly domed standards are balanced by small, incurved, almost black falls. The regelia *I. korolkowi* is just the opposite. Its standards are pointed, rather than domed and the falls, as long as the standards, are slightly incurved but still rather straight hanging. It is a picture in horizontal design, with veining in both the standards and the falls adding to the effect.

The oncocyclus and regelia irises bloom quite early in the season. Some of them will flower with the late tulips and others, just as the tulips fade and before the tall bearded irises come into bloom. However, the time of blooming is influenced somewhat by when the winter mulch is removed.

One reason these irises have been so little known, is that they do require cultural conditions entirely different from the ordinary irises, or most other garden flowers for that matter. Since these irises are native to the Near East, they should be planted in situations which simulate the conditions in these countries. That is, cold winters, short growing seasons and a long, dry summer. The small, peculiar-looking rhizomes seem to be completely hardy, although the new growth is tender and may be injured by severe weather.

Because of such definite cultural requirements, I grow oncos and regelias and their hybrids in pots or tubs, since I can then easily make my own "weather," to suit the plants. I use large bulb pans and wood tubs, with several  $\frac{1}{2}$ " holes for drainage. Since one important factor in growing the arils is absolutely perfect drainage, I crock the pots and tubs carefully with many pieces of broken pots placed over the drainage holes.

The rhizomes are potted up in the fall, during late October or early November. The soil used in potting should be alkaline in reaction, so I add lime to make the required condition, to 3 parts clay loam, 2 parts sand and  $\frac{1}{2}$  part charcoal pieces. A soil reaction of Ph 8 is ideal,





IRIS PSYCHE (Van Tubergen 1907) is a regelio-cyclus hybrid. It is veined with maroon on a cream white base. The rhizomes of this clump were potted December 1, 1951 and the photo was taken at the AIS office in Brentwood February 1, 1952. Psyche pollen produced seed pods on Fides and Lucia which developed normally.



but a variation from Ph 7 to 9 seems to be generally satisfactory. I use a simple soil testing kit to test the soil, but if one is not available, whiten the surface of the soil in the pot before the rhizomes are planted. In any but strongly acid soils, this should be enough to give the plants the sweet soil which they need.

Sometimes I add bonemeal to the potting mixture, but no other fertilizer should be used at planting time, since fall growth is not to be encouraged by quick acting fertilizers.

After planting, I plunge the pots or tubs to their rims in the garden, preferable on a south slope, but some bright, sunny spot will do.

In spite of late planting, some varieties will send up some fall growth, which I mulch heavily with straw or some other material which will not pack down during the winter. I remove this mulch in the spring, after the threat of hard freezes or killing frosts is past, around the first of April here in Ohio.

When the bud stalks appear, a feeding of liquid fertilizer helps to produce larger flowers and helps the plants gain strength to produce next year's flower buds. An additional feeding and another, smaller, application of lime is given immediately after flowering is completed. Since rain water is slightly acid in reaction, a little lime at this time counteracts the spring rains.

About the first of July, I lift the pots out of the ground, even if there is still some green growth, and set them in a cold frame. But a frame is not necessary, if they are set in a sunny spot and covered with glass, or a glass substitute, such as the plastic wire glass, frequently used in chicken houses.

And I have finished for the season with my oncocyclus and regelias. I just forget them, never water them during the summer, but allow them to dry out completely and remain dry until the pots are again sunk in the ground the first of November. This very hard baking through the summer seems to be necessary to insure bloom the following year.

By following these simple, but definite, requirements, I find the oncos and regelias increase, become more prolific and beautiful each succeeding year.

Some of the varieties which I have grown successfully include the previously mentioned *I. susiana*, which has a gray ground color, heavily lined and speckled with dark purple and a striking black-purple sign patch. Some people don't care for it because of its "mourning" colors, but I like it because it *is* unusual and different.

Among the striking regelias are *I. korolkowi*, in several different colors. Two of the best are *Korolkowi Pink*, a creamy pink with maroon veins. *Korolkowi Brown* and *Green* is silvery white, merging to maroon, with an olive green and chocolate signal patch, and sporting a brown beard.

*I. hoogiana* has a satiny finish, as true a blue color as I have seen in any iris—but it still doesn't show up that way on a color slide!

The *oncogelia* hybrids, crosses of true *oncos* and *regelias*, are the most prolific of all these groups. *Luna* is outstanding. The deep red-violet veining is so extensive, it has the effect of a solid color. The signal patch is purplish black.

*Teucros* is a lilac pink with dark pink veins and a dark maroon signal patch. *Thor* has standards of pale lavender, veined with purple, falls of greenish silver. It also has a signal patch of maroon.

By growing these rare irises in pots, they can be put to many uses. I use them on a porch, terrace or in a flower border for spring color, before annuals can take over. Or they may be lifted and brought into the house in early March to force for early blooms.

If you are an enthusiast about flower arranging, as I am, the aril irises furnish extremely unusual, subtle colors, (that "unusual" material the judges are always looking for!) easily combined with other spring flowers. Or use them alone to emphasize their distinctive characteristics. They are especially lovely combined with the bronzy tulips.

My only complaint is that I have never been able to get a successful, fertile cross, either among the *oncos* and *regelias* or with the tall bearded irises. But there's always another year. Maybe the next time I'll have better luck!

## ARIL IRIS CLUB FORMED

A considerable number of iris growers are interested in the various species and bulbous iris. Their culture are difficult and the problems are peculiarly regional. Most growers, after a few trials, give them up as hopeless. One reads with interest the work of Craig, Mitchell, White, and others with the various species and becomes fired with the desire to grow these rare things. Most growers of tall bearded iris do not care for the species probably because they are not as easy to grow as the bearded and therefore do not lend themselves to mass planting.

I've tried some of these species with mixed success. This spring I had a number of letters from several people who were successfully growing quite a few of them. It occurred to me that if we pooled our experiences we might help each other. Working alone, one could be easily discouraged but if we knew of others who were successful it would act as a spur to continue.

Letters went out to these persons asking them to join a club devoted exclusively to the culture of aril iris. Since the problems are purely regional, the experience of southern or western growers would not be pertinent to those in the northeastern states. It was not the intention to have a large robin of interested persons but rather a small group of

active growers. It was also the intention to limit the interest to oncocyclus, regelia, and oncogelia iris or those species designated as aril iris. Since the club was to be a regional one, devoted to growers in the cold and wet sections of the United States, a region was selected ranging from the Atlantic seaboard westward to the Mississippi River and from the Mason-Dixon Line to the northernmost boundary of the United States. It is appreciated that the conditions of growth vary greatly in this area.

The response was immediate and enthusiastic. Five people are in this group, all members of the American Iris Society.

Mrs. R. Moore Price, New Hope, Pennsylvania

Mrs. J. C. Allison, Waddington, New York

Mrs. Oliver M. Black, Bellmore, New York

Robert Henning, Madison, Wisconsin

Frank Cassel, McKeesport, Pennsylvania

The name of the group is The Northeastern Aril Iris Club. There are no officers, no dues, no meetings. We hope, through the Bulletin, to be of service to all persons interested in aril iris in the northeastern region. A 14-point inquiry was sent out to the members covering varieties, planting details, weather conditions, hybridizing, etc. It is planned to sift the data and write a progress report which will be submitted to the Bulletin for publication.

Mrs. Price casually remarks, "I have grown the oncogelias since 1936—some people don't care for them, yet they are lovely with their delicate colors!" Such long standing interest shows they can't be too difficult. Mrs. Allison is trying seeds of oncos and has been quite successful with pot culture of *Iris Susiana* and was mentioned in Austin's Catalog. Mrs. Black has done considerable research on the aril iris and we expect to draw heavily on her knowledge. She is particularly interested in the oncocyclus iris and, says she, ". . . is willing to go to any length to succeed in their culture." Mr. Henning is ". . . primarily interested in hybridizing the arils with the onco-breds." It is interesting that each one is very much interested in the onco-breds. It can be seen that as a group the experience has been that the aril iris can be grown in our region if one is determined to succeed.

We shall continue as a club only as long as we have something to contribute to the Society in the way of furthering the knowledge of these too-little-known iris. If there are any successful growers, especially in the northern range of the northeastern states, who would like to join us, please let me know and I will send them a data sheet. If there are any other aril clubs in the United States, who would like to exchange ideas, we would like to hear from them. All others who are interested might follow whatever progress reports appear in the Bulletins.—FRANK CASSEL, 4000 Sarah Avenue, McKeesport, Pa.



## RECOLLECTIONS OF A FRIEND

### *Franklin Cook 1938-1952*

I first met Franklin Cook at the American Iris Society annual meeting in 1938 and last saw him at the annual meeting this past spring.

He had visited Nashville before 1938 when I had heard about him but never happened to meet him. Mrs. Wills and I had decided to go to the 1938 meeting in Cincinnati, the first one we ever attended, because we had been deeply disappointed in our own season and wanted to get out of town. The Nashville irises had tried to bloom in early April and had all been frozen. There was supposed to be an iris festival or pageant in May, but absolutely no blooms were left and it was a good time to leave.

In Cincinnati we were bus riders, as we have usually been since. It was a rather long walk from the buses to one of the gardens and as we started off a car pulled up beside us and in it were Dr. and Mrs. Cook. They asked us if we would like a ride; we told them that we would, and thus began a friendship which I will always cherish.

That fall, to my considerable astonishment, Dr. Everett asked me if I would be willing to serve as an AIS director and I went to my first director's meeting in Chicago that December. Franklin was also a newly elected member. I visited Franklin and Mrs. Cook for the first time on this trip to Chicago. The following spring, 1939, he visited us during iris season. That year my first seedlings bloomed and of course it was a very exciting time, unparalleled since. It reminded me of the quotation, "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive." I recall Franklin commented adversely on the May heat in Nashville, putting on a sport shirt and slacks and dashing out to the garden with notebook and camera. He picked out a cream seedling which he pronounced unhesitatingly the best of the crop. Unfortunately it later proved tender and died two years later. He also picked out a red which still continues in my strain of red seedlings.

In 1940 we saw the Cooks at the annual meeting in Chicago and in 1941 they came back to Nashville for our meeting. During the years that followed there were many other contacts at annual meetings, director's meetings and other occasions, although they were not so frequent while Franklin was in service. I remember the night, however, he called us up from the airport where he had been stuck on his way from one naval assignment to another, and we told him to come out and spend the night with us. It was a great pleasure in 1944 when he received his medical discharge and rejoined us at the directors meeting in Cincinnati, the first held since just before Pearl Harbor. I watched him recover from his disabilities received in action, resume his iris interest with all his old enthusiasm, and take over the presidency in 1947. In

two years he had to give this up as the first shadows of his serious illness appeared. There was no longer time for as much correspondence as in the past and we did not see him so often. His last visit to Nashville was during the blooming season of 1951 when he flew down for one day accompanied by David and Cathey, his two children. He seemed in grand spirits and apparently enjoyed himself thoroughly. This past May in St. Louis his spirits were still good although the strain of illness was evident. This was probably more noticeable to his old friends than to others, and even we did not realize sufficiently the ordeal to which he was being subjected. I am glad, however, he was able to attend this convention, that Frances came to join him, and that he could carry on as well as he did in his own inimitable way.

Franklin Cook was a very positive character. He impressed one physically with his dark hair, ruddy complexion, the intense earnest look which broke so easily into a smile. His personality was even more decided and impressive. He was very firm in his convictions and opinions, his likes and dislikes, and he was frank, even blunt, in expressing them. He was not designed by nature for the arts of diplomacy, yet he was very kind. Looking back on my visits to his home and garden, I remember particularly the days he used to observe every spring when the parents of the children he served professionally were invited to a garden open house, usually bringing the children with them. I liked to watch him at these times as he circulated tirelessly around, always friendly, always good humored, and I was impressed by the way children and parents reacted toward him.

Franklin made new friends easily wherever he went. He was by nature sociable, a quality that tied in with this was his keen sense of humor. He loved a good joke and was just as ready to laugh at himself as at anybody else.

The conscientious thoroughness and intelligence, plus enthusiasm, which built his large medical practice, made him exceedingly valuable as an officer of the AIS. He had been a most efficient and active Regional Vice-President before he came on the Board of Directors. He was active and capable in every committee assignment or other duty while he was a director, and his presidency, although very short, was marked by tremendous progress. His time was limited but both his energy and his ideas seemed inexhaustible. He inspired the first membership contest, at least in recent times, and, after being static in membership for many years, the Society started its rapid growth into its present size during his two terms. His leadership and encouragement were responsible for other progressive moves, among them: the removal of the Society's headquarters from Washington to Nashville on a full time instead of a part time basis; the publication of our handbook, "The Iris—an Ideal Hardy Perennial;" and the establishment

of a new iris classification which was worked out by the Scientific Committee under Dr. Randolph and approved by the Board of Directors. He initiated the work on a revision of the Check List, although this did not appear until after he was forced to step down. He originated and personally gave the President's Cup, which now has been fittingly renamed the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup.

Despite all this activity and these accomplishments, Franklin's main iris interests were not in the organization but in the flower. He is best known, of course, for his work on harmonious arrangements in the garden. He was continually trying out new groupings and arrangements of various varieties against different sorts of backgrounds in his own garden. This is difficult and tricky work because an iris won't always bloom at the same time year after year.

Franklin Cook could have been an outstanding breeder. What he did accomplish is remarkable in view of the handicaps he faced. To begin with, he always had a very small space in which to work. A young doctor building a practice has so little time for anything else. He cannot simply leave an office and go home in the late afternoon, and in the evenings and on holidays he was always subject to call. Then his first period of activity was interrupted by his war service and after his return he had the task of re-establishing his practice, and this was hardly done before his health began to wane. Franklin was also very critical of his own seedlings. There were from time to time some which looked good to others but did not meet his own high standards. He was particularly interested in working for whites with a blue beard. I recall at least one of these which I thought good but he said it was not. Fortunately, however, he did introduce a few varieties in the last few years, and Northwestern and Pinafore Lass are both most worthy.

The following passage from a Regional Vice-President's report, which Franklin wrote in 1938, is typical of the variety and intensity of his interests. "Now winter and a chance to catch up with our correspondence with Iris people. Who knows how to get a blue Iris to take *blue* (or anywhere near blue) on Kodachrome? I hope to get an answer to this one. Who has any ideas of how to produce a true pink Iris with lots of substance? Where is there an Iris any bluer than Old Wedgewood that is as free flowering? Who's got a pink *plicata* of good size and good habits?"

The friends I have made in the AIS have meant more to me than anything else about it. Many of these have gone now. Out of the group I knew first, Tom Williams here in Nashville, Dr. Grant, of Louisville, Ilse Smith, Dr. Everett, who led the Society so capably through a period of transition and brought into it new leadership, and others, have gone and it is hard to realize that Franklin has now joined them. His impress on the Society will long remain.—J. E. WILLS, Tenn.



## *In Memoriam*

### **MRS. HARRY BICKLE**

After an illness of more than a year Mrs. Harry Bickle passed away on November 15 at her home, 42 Glen Elm Avenue, Toronto.

Mrs. Bickle was in many ways a very remarkable woman. Her life was one of many interests. At an earlier period she was widely known in athletic circles having held the Tennis Open Championship of Canada for ten years.

During the second World War she gave generously of her services as organizer of YMCA canteen work and had under her direction nearly 600 women serving voluntarily.

An ardent gardner for years, her beautiful garden was a mecca for flower-lovers, and she served as Vice-President of the Garden Club of Canada.

Lately Mrs. Bickle had become deeply interested in iris culture and hybridizing and was a tower of strength to the Canadian Iris Society. For four years she served as Regional Vice-President of the American Iris Society, and while visiting gardens in this capacity was one of the most competent iris judges on the continent.

Mrs. Bickle was a wonderful personality. Everywhere she went she made friends. When asked for help she gave with true Christian generosity in "full measure, pressed down and running over." Among her friends who were legion, she will be greatly missed and nowhere more than among the members of the Canadian Iris Society where her loss seems irreparable.—W. J. MOFFAT.

## REGION ONE REPORT

Though members of Region I are especially excited at being hosts for the American Iris Society in 1953, iris activities go on at a fever-pitch pace almost continually from one year's end to the next, in New England. Witness the last year's activities.

On October 13, 1951, our first fall meeting for last winter was held. Excellent kodachromes of iris and other subjects were shown by Fred Bartholomew and Richard Hartshorne, two artists with a camera. Dr. G. P. Brown showed a fine collection of his own fall-blooming iris seedlings cut the same day from his garden. The hospitality committee served delicious refreshments and a lively "get-to-gether" followed the meeting.

On Nov. 9, 1951, a very helpful panel discussion on "The Healthy Iris Garden" was held. The members fired questions at the panel experts on their iris problems. Dr. Brown astonished everyone by showing another group of his fall-blooming iris in fine shape even at this late date, for New England. Some excellent kodachromes were shown by Mrs. Charles Johnson, unquestionably our best lady photographer.

In December another meeting was held and George Pride spoke on "Bulbs in the Iris Garden." The talk was fully illustrated with his kodachromes of the better varieties of daffodils and tulips that brighten the garden before the iris appear and lilies and other plants that take over when the big iris show has gone.

On Jan. 12, 1952, George H. Pride took over his new duties as the Regional Vice-President for Region 1. Great appreciation was shown for the excellent service given by Mrs. Preston Corey, the retiring Regional Vice-President. The region had prospered and interest had increased considerably under her careful leadership. The program for the meeting was called, "What's New for '52." The most prominent hybridizers in the United States had been asked to send in kodachromes and general descriptions of the varieties they were introducing in 1952. Though some were caught unprepared, enough slides and interesting letters came in to make the meeting very worthwhile. It was decided to make it an annual event. To see the pride and joy of the country's best hybridizers in beautiful color in the dead of winter gave us more courage while waiting for spring.

On Feb. 9, Mr. Harold Knowlton showed kodachromes of iris and scenes taken on his southern trip during the iris season in 1951. Very fine pictures of Louisiana iris and superb azaleas of south-eastern gardens were included. Mr. Knowlton spoke briefly on plans for the "1952 Popular Symposium" which turned out to be so successful.

An innovation of holding a joint meeting of the Region 1 American Iris Society and Region 4 Hemerocallis Society at our regular meeting

place, Horticultural Hall in Boston brought out one of the largest audiences ever known for a monthly meeting in our region, up to that time. Excellent kodachromes of both hemerocallis and iris were seen. Since many iris lovers are also hemerocallis fanciers, double enjoyment was experienced by many attending.

On April 5th, a program that will long remain in the memories of all who were present was held. Mr. John Dolman Jr. came up from his home in Swarthmore, Penn. and spoke most enjoyably on "Iris Memories, Dim and Bright." His talk spanned *forty years* of interest in growing and enjoying iris. He concluded his presentation by showing some recent and especially interesting older kodachromes taken several years ago that were most entertaining from the standpoint of iris history. This meeting will be cherished even more by those present due to Mr. Dolman's death very shortly after he had returned home from a second visit during our flowering season. The writer was exceedingly fortunate in having Mr. Dolman finish and submit for printing in the Region I Bulletin an article called "Ramases and the Pinks," just before his death. This is the article mistakenly referred to on Page 20 in the AIS Bulletin for October 1952. His annual trip which he took to our iris gardens last spring was, apparently, never written up for publication. This was a great loss, for many readers looked forward to his report on Region I each fall.

Just previous to the April 5th meeting, an informal luncheon was held in a restaurant near Horticultural Hall. This proved to be a most enjoyable occasion allowing for a real "gab-fest" under very pleasant surroundings.

During June the annual garden trek was held. A very successful iris season was experienced in all gardens visited.

On May 31 and June 1, the gardens of Mrs. Charles Stephenson of Woodbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fuller of Easton, and the Kellog's garden in North Granby, all in Connecticut, were open for visitors. Increased interest in iris in Connecticut is due to a great extent to the untiring devotion and activity of Mrs. Charles Stephenson.

On the morning of June 4th, the garden of Dr. and Mrs. Franklin Lowry was enjoyed by a large number of visitors. Mrs. Lowry's recent introductions Autumn Brown and Violet Harmony were outstanding. Caramel and the new Mellow Gold and a recently named superb *plicata*, Highland Fling, were greatly admired by the judges.

The garden of Mr. Mandeville Barker was visited the same morning where many new pinks and pink seedlings were seen. Many of the new Lapham originations were in evidence including Norah and Helen Louise.

A box lunch was enjoyed at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Knowlton in Auburndale and the gardens were leisurely visited before and



after luncheon. Among the newest varieties were attention-getting clumps of Happy Birthday, Seafarer and Blumohr. Mr. Knowlton's own originations, Quechee, Hummingbird, Gay Spring, Glowing Gold and several numbered seedlings were very impressive.

All in the same day, the large group of visitors moved on to the delightfully landscaped garden of Mrs. Irving Fraim. A seedling of Goldbeater selfed and a sister seedling of Blue Steel were the highlights of Mrs. Fraim's new seedlings.

On June 6th, Mr. Winfield Wheeler's garden in Framingham was enjoyed with its many new varieties. Most enthusiastically received were DeForest's Caroline Jane and Frances Kent, Kenneth Smith's Keene Valley and Golden Hawk, Mrs. Thomas Nesmith's new Black Satin and Desert Dusk, Mrs. J. A. Sapp's Love Story and Chet Tompkin's Columbia.

On the same day, the afternoon was very profitably spent in Mr. William McKee's famous garden in Worcester. Excellent culture and an overwhelming abundance of bloom made the garden as exciting as ever. Superiority in a wide variety of colors is one of Mr. McKee's specialties. Much praise was given to his lovely violet and white plicata, Kim; his excellent new reds, Pequot and Hywill; his exciting new Chinese White; Ponder, the lovely new blue; Mayan Gold an orange yellow, and Terrific and Ardeur his superb new pinks.

### **Gorgeous Gussie on Parade**

Saturday, June 7th found another large gathering of members and guests at the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Corey in Reading, Mass. Mrs. Corey had suffered from a temporary accident but you cannot keep a good iris-hybridizer down. She showed visitors around the garden on crutches. Mrs. Corey's recently introduced Jack Frost, Bay State, Bird Song, Caldera, and High Seas were most beautifully displayed. Her newest blue, Beacon Hill was a standout, and a series of exceedingly lacey-edged seedlings, putting Chantilly to shame, were climaxed in a lovely and novel iris called "Gussie." Party Dress, Cock Pheasant, Mid Continent, Gold Sovereign, Mad Hatter, Char-Maize, Col. Primrose, Frances Kent and many others of the newest iris were on parade.

Prof. Jamison Harrison's extensive gardens were visited in the afternoon of the same day. Visitors were stopped "dead in their tracks" by a magnificent display of new onco hybrids including a wonderful new white, Purissamohr, Sikkamohr a rosy red, Eastermohr a medium blue and Green Mohr a huge chartreuse variety. Neither will visitors forget the appreciative crowds around Columbia and Apricot Supreme. Hundreds of new "guests" and seedlings were making good growth for the big 1952 showing.

The season and the weather continued magnificently and two most

eagerly waited-for gardens, those of Mrs. Thomas Nesmith and Mr. Stedman Buttrick, were visited on Sunday, June 8th. After a luncheon under Mrs. Nesmith's apple trees the group spent a very pleasant afternoon at Mr. Buttrick's famous gardens at Concord, Mass.

Mrs. Nesmith's skillful hand and hybridizing showed wonderful results this year in White Cockade a very early big, handsome sparkling white, Beau Amber, Magic Sails, and Dawn Pink a luscious well-branched apricot pink. Mr. H. F. Hall's Coronation Gold, Hyblaze, Copper Gold, and some of his super numbered seedlings, one a rival of Truly Yours, were especially fine. Will's Belle Meade, Grave's The Citadel, Dr. Brown's Tint of Porcelain, and Mrs. Corey's High Seas made a fine display.

Probably the ultimate in magnificently displayed and landscaped gardens in New England is the superb one of Mr. and Mrs. Stedman Buttrick in historical Concord, Mass. Mr. Buttrick is a hybridizer of great skill and aristocratic tastes. His Seafarer is a standard for judging the medium blues. Wedding Bouquet, one of his newest triumphs, is absolutely tops in the white field and Lavish Lady goes to the head of the list of pure medium lavenders. Sea lavender violet seems to best describe its soft pleasing color.

Mr. Buttrick's carefully tended seedling beds show great discrimination in parentage used and great promise in what the future holds. Superb whites, excellent pinks and especially fine blues with turquoise shadings appearing in them seem to be Mr. Buttrick's main interests at present.

A week later, the gardens of Kenneth Stone in Ashby, Mass., and Mrs. Robert Grave's garden in Hopkinton, N.H., and Mr. Ed Watkins' garden in Concord, N.H. were visited. The Saturday morning of June 14th found a sizeable group enjoying the famous culture Mr. Stone gives his iris. Unbelievable increase, and fine specimen blooming spikes are Kenneth's well-known specialties. Here, Water's Blue Parrakeet, Muhlstein's Pink Formal, Kleinsorge's Thotmes III, Fay's Truly Yours, Stevens' moonlight Sonata, Mrs. Lowry's Violet Harmony, Lapham's Paradise Pink, and Mrs. Nesmith's Beau Amber were seen at their very best.

After a pleasant picnic under the shade trees of the Stone farm, the group moved on to Mrs. Robert Grave's famous garden. This was the last year this garden will be open to the public on these tours and many memories of the first glimpses of famous iris were recalled. The finest named varieties and seedlings have been generously passed on by Mrs. Grave's to Edward Watkins so that the famous breeding work that he and Dr. Graves carried on over many years can continue under Ed's skillful guidance. Evidence of the unslacking wisdom of this dean of iris hybridizers was on every hand as the breath-taking array of new

seedlings was reviewed in Ed's own garden. To many judges in New England, the outstanding seedling of the season was Ed Watkin's new Eleanor's Pride a beautiful powder blue of great size and full form. It is most gratifying that Ed's brother Arthur Watkins is taking a very active part in this iris work, also.

During the whole of the second week of June the gardens of Mr. John Goss of Burlington, Vermont were open to hundreds of visitors.

The final show of iris, where many visitors come to enjoy for the last time each year iris that have gone completely in their own gardens, is the garden of Mrs. Gilbert Barton in Gardner, Mass. She has just taken on the duties of chairman of the "New Membership Committee" replacing Mrs. Charles Johnson who so efficiently handled this position previously. Incidentally, Mrs. Johnson has just become the new Treasurer for Region I replacing Mrs. Franklin Lowry who held this position for eleven years and gave unstintingly of her time and energy to this important office. To get back to Mrs. Barton's garden,—due to its high altitude, it is at its best when everyone else's garden has about gone. Fine culture of many new varieties and a good array of new seedlings were evident. Especially attractive was a rich ox-blood red self from Ernell by Color Sargent.

### **July Meeting To Be Annual Affair**

Close on the heels of the end of the flowering season, on July 1, a meeting of Regional judges was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Knowlton. George Pride, Regional Vice-President presided. This meeting was found very helpful as a means of comparing notes, getting additional information on new varieties and acting as a kind of clearing house for the miscellaneous details regarding the judging of iris. It was so successful, it is planned as an annual event immediately following the busy confusion of the flowering season each year.

As if we had not had enough iris activity for one year, the second Iris Auction for Region I was held on July 12th. It was even more successful than the first held in 1950. A sizeable sum of money was realized from the many rhizomes donated. This money is used to defray the running expenses for our region. The auctioneer was jovial Mr. Armand Benoit of Worcester. Much of the success of this auction can be attributed to his hard work.

The 1952-53 season opened with a bang when Mr. Stedman Buttrick spoke on "Famous New England Iris Gardens" at our October 4th meeting. This talk was masterfully presented with exceptionally fine kodachromes. The largest number ever at one of our meetings attended, a total of nearly 90. An average of 63 at several previous meetings was a definite gain but the attendance at Mr. Buttrick's lecture will be hard to beat in the future. A most delightful social hour with excellent re-



freshments, in plenty, and coffee were enjoyed after the talk.

In November, the results of a kodachrome slide contest were observed at the monthly meeting. This contest was announced by the Regional Vice-President just before the flowering season. An amazing total of 150 kodachrome slides were submitted to be considered for awards. The top twenty-five favorites from the November meeting will be shown again in December at that meeting and the five best slides will be selected for awards.

There were several purposes behind this contest. Since all slides submitted became the property of Region I, a fine nucleus for two slide collections has developed. Two members, Mr. Armand Benoit and Mrs. Charles Johnson donated over one hundred slides apiece for our use just for the slide collections, so a total of over 350 kodachromes were donated to our Regional group. As soon as Mrs. John Bartholomew, who is in charge of slides, can organize them into two collections they will be offered to clubs and garden groups at a moderate charge to stimulate interest in iris growing.

These contest slides have been the basis of two pleasant monthly meetings. They have helped to publicize New England varieties. And since no one could submit pictures who was not a member of the American Iris Society, the contest was instrumental in adding several new members. We hope to reproduce one or more of the prize-winners in color in our Regional Bulletin in 1953.

One incentive for turning in slides was the wonderful array of prizes donated by members of our region. The contest winners can choose from the following: Mayan Gold and Ponder donated by Mr. William McKee, Paradise Pink, New Hope and Vanity Fair donated by Winfield Wheeler, Truly Yours, Seafarer and Wedding Bouquet donated by Stedman Buttrick, Jack Frost donated by Mrs. Corey, Windsor and Apricot Supreme donated by Kenneth Stone, Radiation and Summit donated by George Pride, and Pacemaker and Sarah Goodloe donated by Prof. Jamison Harrison.

A concerted drive has been on in Region I to add new members. Before the first of the year the membership stood below 240. At this writing it is approaching 270 with a hope of reaching 300 by the end of 1952. Just before the flowering season this year, a plea was sent out to all members of the region by the Regional Vice-President asking each member's assistance in getting new members. In brief, the suggestions made to the members were as follows:

1. Contact visitors to your garden. Ask them if they are members of the AIS. If not, point out its benefits, offer to help them join, give them one of the little brochures of the AIS that are available, giving a history, privileges of membership and different types of membership.





#### GROUND COVERS

Since most ground covers encourage rather more moisture than is needed for bearded iris, most gardeners tend to avoid their use. However, Mr. Gottlieb A. Hampfler of "Longwood," Kennett Square, Pennsylvania finds that a thin layer of Buckwheat hulls helps to preserve a neat appearance and to keep down weeds in his iris plantings. The accompanying photograph well illustrates his point. Note the added interest supplied by the pansies.



2. Tell visitors about our regional meetings to which they are welcome.

3. Ask visitors to tell their garden clubs about our gardens and meetings stating that the whole club or any members are invited to join us.

4. Point out superior inexpensive varieties of iris to beginners to show them the possibilities of improving their gardens with little initial expense.

5. Give rhizomes to new members as incentives for joining.

6. Encourage local garden clubs to feature iris shows and have an iris study group.

7. Don't be shy about publicity on your garden in local newspapers. Frequently, this is a way of reaching interested people that can be contacted in no other way.

8. Report all new members to your local Regional Vice-Pres. as soon as possible so the new members can join in on activities.

It is hoped that the above suggestions have helped in bringing our regional membership to the highest point it has ever been.

The phenomenal success of our Region Bulletin continues unabated. It is now in its fifth year and has jumped from less than two hundred subscribers to nearly 500 and has always paid for itself each year. Two issues go out annually, one right after the flowering season filled with garden reports and varietal notes. Another goes out in the middle of the winter. Both issues are sent out to members in or out of Region I for \$1.00. The summer issue this year was 56 pages thick. The bulletin has had the same editor since its beginning.

Much of the recent increase in subscriptions to the Region I bulletin has been due to some very fine articles contributed by members both in and out of New England. Two articles by Prof. Jamison Harrison have been very well received, especially a masterly study of the new pink-toned iris printed in the Winter 1951 and the Summer 1952 bulletins. Unstinted praise has come from literally hundreds of subscribers from all over the country praising the article. We are eagerly awaiting a study of the *Amoena* iris to be printed in the Winter 1952 Bulletin. This issue, incidentally, will be dedicated to Edward Watkins as a tribute to his long and diligent service in helping improve the modern iris. An article by Ed will be featured. Another very important section of the Winter Bulletin will be a careful listing of all the new seedlings, named varieties and guest iris in the 13 gardens that will be on display June 4, 5, 6 and 7 when we are hosts to the AIS. The lists can act as a complete guide to the gardens to be visited so visitors will know what to look for and where.

Region I has been presented with an exceptionally fine kodachrome projector by Mr. William McKee. This adds tremendously to the en-



joyment of our meetings and ends a long-felt want without any drain from our treasury.

Two great losses and three great honors came to Region I in the last year. The deaths of Mr. Charles Johnson and Mr. Thornton Jenkins brought a loss to us of two well-loved and greatly missed members. The first honor for 1952 in Region I was the awarding of the Medal of Hybridizing to Mrs. Thomas Nesmith for her long years of careful and intelligent work with iris.

Then, Mr. Stedman Buttrick was made a Director of the AIS and to top all honors, Mr. Harold Knowlton was made President of the AIS at the annual meeting.

So, we face the exciting and challenging year of 1953 on the crest of the wave, so to speak, with the largest regional membership, the largest monthly attendance at meetings ever, the keenest interest, an increasingly successful regional bulletin, a region financially solvent, with burgeoning gardens having the largest number of new seedlings and fine new named varieties ever displayed in New England.

As Regional V.P., may I extend the warmest invitation to the members of the AIS to be with us and share our iris pleasures in 1953.

## Varietal Comments from Region One

### *Stedman Buttrick*

White Cockade (Nesmith) A large clump of a big, handsome, roundly-formed, sparkling white iris with broad falls. First rate. High garden value.

Coronation Gold (H. F. Hall) Big, showy and very intense, glowing orange yellow.

Humming Bird (Knowlton) A beautifully ruffled buff and white iris of great distinction.

Golden Moon (Knowlton) A smooth deep yellow of high quality.

Belle Meade (Wills) Beautiful. The most satisfying of the blue and white plicatas.

Purissamohr (Earl Weidner, Penn.) Sensational white. Has to be seen to be believed. Nothing freakish about it.

Magic Sails (Nesmith) Really huge pale blue. Despite great size of flower, there is no coarseness about it thanks to the delicacy and smoothness of the coloring and the firmness of the substance.

The Citadel (Graves) Unintroduced white. Magnificent seedling of Dr. Graves. A massive pure white of sculptural beauty, serene and dignified.

Jan Hess (Graves) Very broadly-formed medium-blue. Deeper and richer in color than Helen McGregor, Jane Phillips and Kiki, it seemed to me a very stunning thing.

High Seas (Corey) Big flaring white. A top quality iris that measures up to the high standard of Mrs. Corey's previous introductions.

*Harold Knowlton*

Wedding Bouquet (Buttrick) The flowers are very white with sturdy stalks, and with a greenish tone to the backs of the falls which appear on the falls as faint thin hues near the haft. It is an aristocrat flower and should become one of our leading whites.

Lavish Lady (Buttrick) Sea lavender violet. Short white beard heightens the ruffled well-formed bloom.

Autumn Brown (Lowry) The flare and twist to the falls and the sheen and glow to the rich brown color mark this as a top flight iris. It is as fine a brown as I have seen. Strong stalks and good branching.

Happy Birthday (D. Hall) The color is rich and clear. The flower is large and holds its form better than most of the new pinks. It is a good grower and has a sturdy stalk with well placed branches.

*Mrs. Thomas Nesmith*

Legionnaire (Graves) (Formerly called Ice Maiden) Very ruffled white falls with standards of lightest blue, giving a very crisp and lovely effect.

Seafarer (Buttrick) Very true blue color. It is the best in the medium blue class on account of its especially fine form and smooth finish.

Quechee (Knowlton) A wonderful iris. Has great color value in the garden. Its rich red blooms do not fade and it remains fresh throughout the day.

Eleanor's Pride (Ed Watkins) The crowning glory of all was a beautiful powder blue of large size and full broad form that stood out in the Watkin's garden. If there had been nothing else to see, the sight of this iris would have been well worth the whole trip. A cross of Jane Phillips and Blue Rhythm, it has the form, substance, height, and branching that is so necessary in making a superb iris.

*Prof. Jamison Harrison*

Pequot (McKee) A deep mahogany red. Was the most outstanding of the red introductions in the McKee garden.

Mayan Gold (McKee) Probably the brightest golden yellow introduced.

Terrific (McKee) Stood out to meet all eyes. A colossal orchid colored iris blooming on 57" stalks. Huge bloom of good form and substance and it carries a very bright tangerine beard.

Green Mohr (Muhlstein) Quite outstanding. The bloom was of very large size and elegant proportions. The chartreuse green color is deeper than in Lady Mohr and there is no infusion of other color.

Beacon Hill (Corey) Beautiful ruffled flower of more intense color tone than its pod parent Helen McGregor.

Gussie (Corey) A major contribution to the pink toned iris. Very lacey edged. Chantilly only exhibits this quality to quite a moderate degree when one compares it with Gussie.

*Mrs. Robert Elliott*

Party Dress (Muhlstein) Rich pink with salmon tones and geranium beard. Crimped standards and lightly ruffled falls. Somewhat closely branched but very nice coloring.

Bird Song (Corey) Medium-sized plicata done in red-violet and white with almost horizontal falls. Flowers beautifully poised on well-branched stalk. Keeps its crisp, fresh look through the heat of the day.

Frances Kent (DeForest) A beautiful iris with buff-toned standards and ivory falls, tangerine beard and a pink glow through the heart of the flower. Three well-branched blooms open on one stalk when seen.

Beau Amber (Nesmith) Different. Lacy-edged amber with pink glow at base of standards; iridescent pink flush on falls; bright tangerine beard. Not large flower but well-proportioned to stalk. Makes a gay color note in the garden.

*Herbert C. Fraser*

Caramel (Lowry) A rich butter tan, with conic standards, wide flaring falls, brown shoulders and a faint blue blaze at tip of beard.

Mellow Gold (Lowry) A soft mellow yellow, very ruffled throughout. A self except for a small white spot at tip of orange beard. Sturdy stalk of 28", heavy substance, good branching, close but well placed, standards are tightly cupped, falls semi-flaring. Blooms last over a long period. Floriferous. Greatly admired by the judges.

*William J. McKee*

Purissamohr (E. Weidner, Penn.) This white onco hybrid is something new in the Mohr line of breeding and to me the most interesting one of that whole family introduced to date. It has good form and heavy substance and a clean haft. It shows some of the Mohr characteristics but very little of its faults and should be very useful for breeding.

Paradise Pink (Lapham) There are a number of the newer pinks that are outstanding but to my eye the color of this one has my vote for the number one pink of the year.

Violet Harmony (Lowry) Here is an extra large ruffled deep violet that I have been observing for the last two years. I think it is outstanding in its color class. A Gem!

Honor Bright (De Forest) Plicatas have not been favorites of mine as there is too much of a sameness in their color patterns. Here is one that is really different both in color and pattern and is the finest plicata I have seen to date.



Golden Hawk (Smith) A large golden self with wide semi-flaring falls. The flower has a smooth finish and the falls have a sheen that sparkles in the sunlight. A little different in color than any gold iris I have seen. A fine iris.

*Edith Lowry*

Black Satin (Nesmith) The darkest in the blue black class, of satiny texture and a self even to the beard. It holds its color. Is very smooth with no veining. A well groomed iris. Not a large flower or tall stalk but truly an aristocrat.

Desert Dusk (Nesmith) An iris that drew us to it wherever it was seen this season. It is a rich blend of brown, the standards of lighter tone than the falls which have a brilliant blaze of red purple or fuschia. A bright yellow beard adds to this unusual colorful combination. It has garden value plus.

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## MEMORANDUM FROM

### *The British Iris Society*

DYKES MEDAL 1952—

The Dykes Medal has been awarded to the tall bearded iris Seathwaite raised by Mr. H. J. Randall. It has a large, ruffled, pale to medium blue flower, and is tall and well branched. Its parentage is: Helen McGregor x Cahokia.

FOSTER MEMORIAL PLAQUE—

This award has been made to Mr. William Miles of Ontario, Canada, who is a notable authority on irises, a great gardener and lover of plants, and the raiser of Vandabeth, Vice-Regal, Elizabeth of England, City of Stratford, Vanda and other fine varieties.

NAME OF THE SOCIETY—

The name of the society has now been changed to The British Iris Society, it having been suggested that the establishment of several new iris societies since the war necessitated a change in order to avoid confusion. The change has another, if minor, advantage for there have been some people who were unable to appreciate that the old name might have been chosen simply in unself-conscious humility with the result that such critics could only think that in originally adopting the name of "The Iris Society" there was an arrogant intention to place the emphasis on the definite article.—H. SENIOR FOTHERGILL, *Honorary Secretary*.

# Random Comment

DON WATERS, Ohio

Helen McKenzie is one of the best new whites which I observed this season. It is a pure white even to the beard and has good size, is beautifully branched and a very stylish flower.

Tranquility is a flaring white iris with green shadows throughout—no yellow anywhere. It is very good.

White Sprite from Mr. Casebeer is very appealing with flaring form, good texture and branching.

Sky Above—A new light blue is on the horizon that in my opinion is the smoothest, the bluest, the thriftiest and the loveliest of all the light blues which I have seen. It is also beautifully ruffled. Need more be said?

Elizabeth of England from Mr. Miles, of Canada, is a beautiful medium blue with thick texture and nice form.

Ruth made a fine impression on all who saw it in St. Louis. It is a lovely shade of light yellow—exquisitely formed, with fine size and branching.

June Sunlight will be introduced next year. It is a brilliant buttercup yellow, very smooth and nicely formed with wide falls and domed standards. The beard is of the same clear buttercup yellow as the rest of the flower. It is out of seedlings from a cross of Spun Gold and Treasure Island, and is a good performer as I saw nine bloom stalks from a single rhizome this year. It was developed by Bob McCormick, of Columbus, Ohio.

Golden Gleam is a rather nice sized flower which seemed quite pleasing in the sunlight but dull in the shade.

Solid Gold as seen in St. Louis was huge and fine—a beautiful shade of gold throughout—will undoubtedly be very popular.

Moonlight Sonata is a very pleasing lemon yellow iris, flaring and picoted around the edges of both standards and falls.

The Knockout, a large cream colored iris with orange in the haft and on the shoulders of the falls, is quite attractive.

Leading Lady, a very brilliant plicata, was greatly admired in the Scott garden.

Royal Sovereign as it bloomed for me this year was not as brilliant an iris as I had expected to see. However, it is different and attractive and bloomed on a fine stalk.

Eva Sloan, Miss Eva Faught's 55K-1, was one of the outstanding things I saw this year. It is a very lovely lemon colored iris with a darker band around the falls and standards. It is exquisitely shaped,

huge in size and a fine stalk and will undoubtedly become very popular. Clear Sailing, a very brilliant lemon and white iris, attracts everyone to it.

Mystic Melody is very fine both in form of flower and stalk—a refreshing yellow and cream bicolor with much more intensity of color than Pinnacle. In my opinion it is better in every respect than Summit in which I was somewhat disappointed.

Centurion has nice wide flaring falls and a lovely smooth copper color. I liked it very much.

Gypsy Classic—smoother than the other browns, flaring.

Thotmes III was well grown and another of those Kleinsorge tans that are so striking.

Royal Wish with tan standards and rose colored falls was very good.

Jericho really put on a performance in my garden this year—over 42" tall with several exhibition stalks having four flowers open at once. It has splendid carrying qualities and is a fine iris in every respect.

Morning Bright—This iris, blooming in the Reeves garden in St. Louis, attracted a great deal of attention and was one of the outstanding things seen at the National Convention. It has been described on other occasions in the Bulletin.

### **Mary Randall Has Unique Color**

Mary Randall, blooming aside of Morning Bright, is a fine iris too—different entirely than the former—a rather ashes of rose shade. It is different in color than any other iris I know of.

Color Carnival—a fine splash of color and I liked it.

One of the sensational irises I saw this year was Pink Plume in the orchid pink class, a color which is very appealing to me. It had beautifully formed flowers on nice stems and undoubtedly will become very popular when better known.

Happy Birthday, a Cooley 1952 introduction, is a fine addition to the Hall flamingo pinks—considerably deeper pink than Cherie and nicely ruffled.

Love Story is a nice pink, especially noticeable because of its fine tall stalk and good branching.

Pink Formal was fine wherever seen. Ballerina has very intriguing ruffling throughout the entire flower, which makes it distinctive. Dolly Varden has very good color—not quite as smooth in the haft as the other pinks.

Cloud Cap was the largest pink observed this year and its color seemed to be much clearer and pinker than I recall it from last year. It is an iris all will want.



Pink Sensation put on an impressive show in my garden this year and in some lights it gave Paradise Pink a close run for being the pinkest iris. However, it is a bit more salmony than Paradise Pink in sunlight.

Rosedale is a lovely, flaring rose pink which is very fine in a clump.

Sable Night was the crowd stopper in my garden, several spikes having three wonderful flowers open at once with black velvety falls, deep mulberry standards and brown beard. It was so beautiful and unusual it just didn't look real. I have seen nearly all of the introduced dark iris and all of Paul Cook's seedlings for several years, and in my opinion nothing approaches the very deep and rich coloring of Sable Night.

Black Diamond, while not a tall iris, is sumptuous with its dark silken sheen and good sized flower.

Ebony Echo is distinctive because of its ruffling and rich maroon coloring. Good size flower but stalk not quite tall enough to suit me.

Staten Island is the best yellow bicolor in the yellow and red range.

Green Mohr, while not much green can be seen, nevertheless is very attractive.

Masked Ball was one of the surprises to me of this season. I had not seen it before and in the Benson garden in St. Louis it was a real standout, being distinctive and different.

New Hope is the best plicata I have seen. The white is very white—a beautifully formed flower, clean in color.

I believe Queen's Taste was the standout of the season for me because of its unusual coloring. It is sort of an amoena blend, reddish falls with white border, lilac standards and light yellow beard. Flower has good form and adequate stem. Everyone will want this iris.

Quechee, an attractive, flaring rosy red iris with excellent carrying power.

Prospector is a lovely colored iris exactly like the picture in Cooley's catalog.

Pagan Princess was a standout in my garden this year with its unusual coloring. All who saw it admired it for that quality.

Pagan Royal has beautifully rich, dark coloring, fine form, an excellent garden iris—distinctive in its class.

Criterion is a fine new addition to the amoena group. On a first year stalk it was tall, of good size, with beautifully clear colors.

# *Southern California Court of Honor*

MRS. RUSSELL HOPSON, Calif.

Southern California has a large, enthusiastic group of iris hybridizers. The result of their efforts has gained considerable recognition as shown by the increasing number of introductions which have received awards by the American Iris Society. As a special feature of the 13th Annual Southern California Iris Show a display of introductions which have received AIS awards was set up honoring our local hybridizers.

The interests of this group of iris enthusiasts are varied. Mr. Clarence White of Redlands has contributed much to the development of oncobreds. He first gave us the finest of the smaller garden plants of onco character and is continuing to astound iris fans with his latest releases, the Kalifs. The late Mr. Eric Nies will continue to be remembered for his outstanding work with *Spurias* and *Douglasianas*. Both of these Southern Californians have received the distinction of being awarded the Hybridizers Medal of the AIS. Mr. Carl Milliken, one of our earliest hybridizers, well known as the originator of the famous *China Maid*, continues his interest in producing tall bearded iris of quality. Tom Craig with his mass method of hybridizing and his creative imagination has given us a look into the future for possibilities in iris hybridizing.

In addition to these widely known hybridizers, there are others who have gained a place in our Court of Honor. E. H. Brennan, A. H. Heller, Lena Lothrop, David Lyon, Elma Miess, Mrs. Douglas Pattison, C. C. Taylor and Marion Walker have produced winners in a variety of colors. Each year this Court of Honor has become one of the outstanding exhibits of the show.

## **Award of Merit**

Azure Skies—Patterson HM '43 AM '45  
Fort Knox—Milliken HM '41 AM '44  
Golden Ruffles—C. C. Taylor HM '46 AM '49  
Nelson of Hilly—White HM '41 AM '43  
Oyez—White HM '40 AM '41  
Present—White HM '47 AM '49  
Sheriffa—White HM '43 AM '45  
Bronzespur—Nies HM '41 AM '45  
Dutch Defiance—Nies HM '45 AM '49  
Orchid Sprite—Nies HM '46 AM '48  
Two Opals—Nies HM '46 AM '50  
China Maid—Milliken HM '38 AM '39





### Honorable Mention

Arcadia Buttercup—Milliken HM '48	Quaker Mischief—White HM '47
Baltis—White HM '48	Rich Raiment—Craig HM '50
Butterfly Wings—White HM '47	Savage—Craig HM '51
Char-Maize—Lyon HM '49	Spring Sunshine—Milliken HM '47
Chrysolite—White HM '41	Sky Maid—Walker HM '45
Country Lass—Walker HM '47	Spring Romance—Miess HM '50
Esquire—Lothrop HM '47	Spring Secretary—White HM '41
Green Pastures—Heller HM '47	Templar—White HM '47
Gentle Florence—Taylor HM '47	The Mad Hatter—Lyon HM '51
Heigho—Craig HM '49	Ventura—Walker HM '47
Hurricane—Craig HM '49	White Ruffles—Taylor HM '47
Laddie—Miess HM '51	Your Worship—White HM '47
Lake Tenaya—Miess HM '50	Yarkand—White HM '48
Mountain Sky—Milliken HM '41	Amiquita—Nies HM '51
Mrs. Douglas Pattison—Craig HM '51	Michigan State—Nies HM '45
Noel—White HM '41	Saugatuck—Nies HM '41
Peg Dabagh—Craig HM '48	Russet Flame—Nies HM '50
Peach Parfait—Craig HM '49	



# *Region Nine's Annual Blowout*

JERRY DONAHUE, R.V.P.

The members of Region 9 assembled together, as is their annual custom, on September 27th, to break bread and swap yarns. As usual, Dave Hall (Dykes Medal Cherie) took the trophy for the tallest yarn of the day, with the unbeatable history of his Flamingo Pink strain of iris. Many of you will recall having heard this fascinating story at the Annual Meeting in St. Louis, which he re-fabricated for us by special request.

Orville Fay (Dykes Medal Runner-Up Truly Yours) followed with an account of his activities on his recently acquired "Iris Acres" near Techny. Other iris personalities introduced by Emcee Jerry Donahue were Hubert Fischer, R.V.P. elect for Region 9, and Elmer Claar, of Day Lily fame.

The door prizes were rhizomes of leading iris introductions kindly contributed by philanthropically minded members. Forty-two of the ninety-nine guests present were made happier by being the lucky winners of take-home pay. Mrs. Fred Bond drew the winners out of the hat, and Joe Botts held down the blackboard and chalk position. Dick Goodman gave an interesting talk on the St. Louis meeting, illustrated with his excellent color photography. Ted Greer also showed some fine Kodachromes, accompanied with an enlightening story of the meeting during which we happily relived those chilly days in St. Louis. Our official photographer, Nate Rudolph, kept the members looking their best at all times, in hopes, (or fear) that they would be his next target. The accompanying photo as taken by him.

The final feature was the showing of Kodachromes brought by the members, many oh's and ah's being expressed as promising seedlings and named iris, were flashed on the silver screen. The afternoon was a profitable one, for all, by the renewing of iris friendships, and another annual meeting is now another pleasant memory.



Elmer Claar, Mrs. Fischer, Hubert Fischer, Mrs. Hall, David Hall, Jerry Donahue, Mrs. Donahue and Orville Fay (Left to Right) Region 9 Banquet.

## REGION 16, C.I.S. ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Canadian Iris Society (Region 16) held their annual dinner meeting and election of officers at Club 222, Hamilton, Ont. on November 12, 1952. President W. J. Moffat welcomed the members attending and mentioned in his remarks that apart from a good attendance from the Toronto-Hamilton area, members were also present from Sarnia, Stratford, Niagara Falls and Walkerton. These Points are within a radius of 50 to 100 miles from Hamilton.

Highlight of the evening was an address by Mr. William Miles of Surreyhurst Farm, Ingersoll, Ont. He spoke on "People, Plants and Personalities in British Horticulture." Mr. Miles illustrated his talk with his own excellent set of Kodachrome slides. His informal, humorous manner in relating certain incidents delighted the audience, and gave us a feeling of being along with him on his visit to his homeland during English daffodil time early last spring.

During the evening Secretary Leslie Laking gave a report on the iris trial gardens established in connection with the Royal Botanical Gardens. RVP Mrs. William McCann also reported on gardens visited during iris time and read a list of the 20 popular iris being grown.

Always popular with the members, an iris drawing was held for six good iris and the winners are Mr. D. V. Saunders, Mrs. H. MacPherson, Mr. R. K. Chamberlain, Mrs. A. Beevor, Rev. W. T. Corcoran and Mr. William McCann.

# AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

## MINUTES DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Hotel Chase, St. Louis, Mo., October 25-26, 1952

Meeting was called to order by Judge Guy Rogers, President of the Society, and upon a roll call the following were declared to be present: Messrs. Stedman Buttrick, Geddes Douglas, Joe House, Harold W. Knowlton, W. J. Moffat, Guy Rogers, Carl Schirmer, W. F. Scott and Jesse Wills. Judge Rogers declared a quorum present and called for the business of the day.

The following motions were duly made, seconded and unanimously passed:

The reading of the minutes of the meeting of the Board May 19, 1952 was dispensed with since they had been approved by mail vote.

The election of the following four Directors was approved: Mr. J. E. Wills, Mr. J. W. House, Mr. Marion R. Walker and Mr. W. F. Scott, Jr.

The interim appointment of Mr. Stedman Buttrick to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Franklin Cook was approved.

Mr. Joe House was appointed to draft a resolution commemorating the service to the Society of Dr. Franklin Cook.

It was resolved that the President's Cup henceforth be called the Franklin Cook Memorial Cup and that the rules and regulations regarding the awarding of this cup be left to the discretion of the Awards Committee.

It was resolved that in recognition of the fact that the iris William Mohr has become the progenitor of a new race of garden irises and further that these irises have reached a high place in popularity and public esteem and further that in the opinion of the Board of Directors having met in executive session in St. Louis this date, that said Board of Directors award to the iris William Mohr a Special Award of Merit.

It was resolved that the following Regional Vice-Presidents be appointed to serve office under the pleasure of the Board of Directors:

- |        |                         |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Region | 2—Mrs. C. M. Zirbel     |
| "      | 3—Mrs. Wallace J. White |
| "      | 4—Mrs. F. S. Perkins    |
| "      | 7—Mr. Carl Carpenter    |
| "      | 9—Mr. Hubert Fischer    |
| "      | 10—Mr. Bennett C. Jones |
| "      | 14—Mrs. Sydney Mitchell |
| "      | 18—Mr. Ray Rickman      |
| "      | 21—Mrs. B. E. Ellis     |
| "      | 22—Miss Eleanor Hill    |



All other Regional Vice-Presidents were later re-appointed by President Knowlton and the appointments were confirmed by the Board.

The Treasurer's Report presented by Mr. Carl Schirmer was approved and the Chair directed the secretary to spread it upon the minutes.

**Financial Statement for Period of 1/1/52 to 10/31/52**

	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Disbursements</i>
January .....	\$ 6,562.75	\$ 4,133.70
February .....	2,468.05	3,720.25
March .....	5,007.45	1,133.70
April .....	1,249.33	2,975.01
May .....	1,887.51	954.33
June .....	1,467.91	
July .....	2,449.36	795.75
August .....	979.41	1,035.32
September .....	491.35	
October .....	336.27	3,701.86
TOTAL .....	\$22,899.39	\$18,449.92
Balance on hand in bank 1/1/52.....		\$ 1,763.15
Total Receipts for above period.....		22,899.39
		<u>\$24,662.54</u>
Disbursements for above period.....		18,449.92
Balance on hand in bank.....		<u>\$ 6,212.62</u>
Plus petty cash fund on hand in Nashville.....		1,000.00
TOTAL BALANCE .....		<u>\$ 7,212.62</u>
Also on hand 5 U.S. Series F Bonds 1944		
3 " " " " 1945		
2 " " " " 1946		
with total maturity value of \$10,000.00		

The report of the Secretary was approved and the chair also directed that it be spread upon the minutes.

In response to specific recommendations made by the Secretary the following special resolutions were adopted:

- A. That reprints be made of the Registrations from 1949 to 1952 and bound together and be disposed of to the membership at 50¢ per copy. These reprints will be of such size that they can be inserted as a supplement to the 1949 Check List. Be it further resolved that extra reprints of the Registrations be made each year to be made available to the membership at 25¢ per copy.
- B. That in the future only one Bulletin be mailed to delinquent members after expiration date of membership.

C. That all correspondence be separated according to its value and unimportant routine correspondence and order files be disposed of after an interval of two years.

D. The Secretary read two letters from Mr. Alexander Maxwell regarding Mr. Maxwell's plan of donating irises to AIS Accredited Shows only. The Board instructed the Secretary to write Mr. Maxwell a letter of approval and to thank him for his offer and to render all assistance possible in helping him to carry out his offer.

E. The Board authorized the publication of the third edition of "The Iris—an Ideal Hardy Perennial" on the condition that the prices which were in effect on the first and second edition being \$2.50 per copy for the cloth-bound and \$1.50 per copy for the paper-bound are to be maintained and quantity orders are to receive a maximum 33 1/3% discount. This third edition is to consist of 1000 copies approximately 600 in cloth binding and 400 in paper binding.

F. The Board instructed the Secretary to hold in abeyance the printing of the Membership List authorized by previous motion until further action should be taken by the Board.

G. The Board instructed the Secretary to change the membership dues from the present status to the following schedule:

Regular Membership .....	\$4.00
Triennial Membership .....	10.50
Family Membership .....	5.00
Sustaining Membership .....	5.00
Life Membership .....	75.00

The Secretary read correspondence received from Mr. J. Arthur Nelson of Omaha, Nebraska concerning Color Classification. The Board authorized the Registration Committee to form a special sub-committee for the purpose of classifying current name varieties of irises according to color. The Board further instructed the Registration Committee to name Mr. J. Arthur Nelson as Chairman of this sub-committee with full powers to appoint the members of this sub-committee, not to exceed five in number. The report of this sub-committee listing current iris varieties by color is to be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval upon its compilation.

A verbal report of the Registration Committee was made by Mr. Harold Knowlton and Mr. Jesse Wills both present at the meeting. Mr. Knowlton reported that the Registrar, Mrs. Geo. Robinson had been able to clear up the confusion which existed at the time of her advent into office, to a very great extent. The Board passed a resolution commending Mrs. Robinson on the success of her work and took the opportunity of congratulating her and extending to her the thanks of the Board and the entire membership.



Upon recommendation of the Registration Committee the following suggestions were made and approved:

A. The Registrar was instructed to increase the registration fee on all varieties submitted to the Registrar for approval from \$1.00 to \$2.00. The effective date of this change shall be January 1, 1953 or coincident with the publication of these minutes in the official organ of the Society.

B. That a fee of \$1.00 be assessed upon all registered names transferred from one clone to another if transfer is made within a period of one year from the date of the original registration. Transfers of names registered more than one year preceding the date of the transfer shall be treated as new registrations and shall be subject to the fee of \$2.00.

C. The Board authorized the Registrar to accept registrations of tall bearded and/or other irises from Mr. Tom Craig for the year 1952 not to exceed twenty (20) in number.

D. The Board voted to instruct the Registrar to limit total registrations from one applicant to 15 per calendar year of which not more than ten can be of one classification, unless special authorization is made by the Board of Directors.

E. The Board moved to supply the Registrar with a copy of the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart.

F. The Board voted that the requirement of an official Certificate of Recording of Introduction be eliminated. The original resolution covering the certificates of recording of introductions is set forth on page 36, Bulletin 116, January 1950.

The Report from the Classification Committee, Dr. L. F. Randolph, Chairman, was read by Vice-President Knowlton. The Board instructed the Secretary to acknowledge receipt of this report to Dr. Randolph and spread it upon the minutes and to publish the report in an early issue of the Bulletin. Further, the Board voted to refer this report to the Classification Committee for future consideration and in so doing to thank Chairman Randolph for his efforts in the preparation of his report.

Mr. Knowlton, Chairman of the Awards Committee reported to the Board in person. The Board gave final approval of the Awards of 1952 and to the "100 Favorite Irises of 1952" as voted on by the entire membership, copies of which were delivered to the Board members. The following resolutions concerning awards were adopted:

A. That no action be taken on implementing the Eric Nies Award in 1952 and that the establishment of voting rules be postponed pending further study.

B. Following a discussion of the Randolph preliminary report on

classification there was a discussion of the advisability of having special judges for the various sections of the iris family. It was the sense of the Directors that the concept of "Special Accredited Judges" could, in the future, become entirely unworkable. And thereupon a motion was duly made and seconded that follows, to wit: That effective this date the 15 accredited dwarf iris judges listed in the 1952 list in Bulletin 125, page 98, be and are hereby appointed Accredited Judges of the American Iris Society with full voting powers and that no further special judges of any kind be appointed subsequent to this date.

C. That the rules concerning the Dykes Medal be amended to read as follows:

#### 1. DYKES MEMORIAL MEDAL

This is the highest award that can be given an iris and is awarded yearly by The Iris Society of England through the American Iris Society.

On the recommendation of at least 15 per cent of the accredited judges voting for this medal, the Dykes Medal may be awarded to one outstanding variety of American or Canadian origin that has received the Award of Merit, the Caparne Award, the Morgan Award or the Mary Swords Debaillon Award not more than four full years prior to the award year. If the variety receiving the most votes of the judges has less than 15 per cent of the votes cast for this medal, or in the event of a tie for first place the Directors may order that a supplementary ballot be sent to the judges, and the medal may be awarded to the variety receiving the most votes on such supplementary ballot. The Board of Directors has full authority to award the medal or to make no award in any year, whether or not a supplementary ballot is made.

D. That all judges who do not participate for two consecutive years may be either deleted from the judges list or made honorary judges at the discretion of the Chairman of the Awards Committee in cooperation with the Regional Vice-Presidents.

E. That the Editor of the Bulletin is authorized to publish a list of varieties having received Honorable Mention and other awards as assembled by and submitted by Mr. Chas. U. Bear.

F. That the "Symposium" be continued in 1953 under the same rules and regulations prevailing in 1952.

G. That a "Handbook for Accredited Judges of the AIS" be published and made a part of the Bulletin either as a supplement or a section subject to reprint to be carried in one or more issues.

In response to requests from a majority of the members in the territories concerned it was decided to create a new region, known as Region 22 which shall consist of the states of Arkansas and Oklahoma. Region 17 will then consist of the State of Texas, and Region 10 the State of Louisiana.

It was moved that the office of Second Vice-President be created in accordance with the By-Laws and that, further, this officer be named Chairman of the Board of Counselors. The Board of Counselors by previous Board action has been declared to consist of the Regional Vice-Presidents of the Society.

The Secretary was given authority to make any future adjustments in the wages of American Iris Society employees commensurate with current rates.

Mr. W. F. Scott in the name of the iris growers of St. Louis presented to the American Iris Society a check for \$140.00 representing a portion of the proceeds left over from the receipts of the St. Louis meeting. The Board moved to extend the thanks of the Society to Mrs. Walter Buxton, Chairman of the St. Louis group for this generous gift.

President Rogers advised the Board that the next item on the Agenda called for the Election of officers for 1953. In so doing he reminded the Board that he had been President for four years and would not be able to continue in that office for another year. Upon resolution by Mr. Joe House the Board voted to extend its commendation and thanks to Judge Rogers for his outstanding service to the Society in his capacity as President.

BE IT RESOLVED that the thanks of the Board of Directors be extended to Judge Guy Rogers for his services as President of the American Iris Society for the past four years. During that time, Judge Rogers has met every call and demand made upon him by the Society. He has devoted much time at a large personal expense in its interest. He has—as the Presiding Officer—in the deliberations of the Society, earned the commendation of every Director and member. He has presided with firmness, dignity, intelligence and fairness, and has thereby contributed greatly to the continuing success of the American Iris Society; and, he has our heartfelt appreciation.

Judge Rogers called for nominations for the various offices and the following were nominated and elected by unanimous vote:

<i>President</i> .....	Mr. Harold W. Knowlton
<i>First Vice-President</i> .....	Mr. Marion Walker
<i>Second Vice-President</i> .....	Mr. W. F. Scott, Jr.
<i>Treasurer</i> .....	Mr. Carl Schirmer
<i>Sec.-Editor</i> .....	Mr. Geddes Douglas

Medals of the Society were awarded by unanimous vote to the following persons:



Hybridizers Medal—Mr. Fred Deforest, Mr. Orville Fay  
Distinguished Service Medal—Mr. Fred Cassebeer,  
Judge Guy Rogers.

The following resolution was duly offered, seconded and unanimously passed:

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the following resolution is offered as a tribute to the memory of our friend, Doctor Franklin Cook; that it shall be spread upon the minutes and preserved in the archives of the American Iris Society; a copy to be sent by the Secretary to Doctor Cook's family;

When the final summons came to our friend, Doctor Franklin Cook, and he was removed from our ranks,—the American Iris Society suffered a great casualty and the loss of a great friend and leader.

His life was dedicated to service, to his patients, as a Doctor—and to his work for many years as a Director and Officer of the American Iris Society and as a breeder of more beautiful iris; and the influence of his devoted years extends to the remotest areas. He had the entire confidence and respect of all those with whom he was closely associated. He had that rare and happy faculty of retaining the good will and friendship of his associates. He was entirely honest with himself and with others. There was nothing small about him. Whatever he did,—he did vigorously and earnestly. He was truly genuine. He has left behind him a record of splendid service and influence. Carlyle's lines so well describe Doctor Cook's life—"Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand."

Even though the usefulness and influence of Doctor Cook was cut short, he did achieve an eminent and outstanding success in everything he undertook. His work was constructive and inspiring, and he has left behind an influence for good that will long endure. His memory will long be revered—not only by his loved ones, his friends and associates, but by thousands of Iris Lovers in the United States. He made this country a better and a more beautiful place by having lived, and his influence will always serve as an inspiration.

The business of the day having been completed upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

GEDDES DOUGLAS, *Secretary*

## Secretary's Report, October 1, 1952

MEMBERSHIPS—	<i>Jan.-Sept. 1952</i>
Renewals . . . . . (2700)	\$ 9,450.00
New . . . . . ( 744)	2,604.00
Family . . . . . ( 269)	1,345.00
Sustaining . . . . . ( 176)	880.00
Life . . . . . ( 7)	525.00

### BOOKS—

The Iris (\$2.50) . . . . .	—
The Iris (\$1.50) . . . . .	—
The Iris (\$2.00) . . . . .	—
The Iris (\$2.50 discounted) . . . . .	—
The Iris (\$1.50 " ) . . . . .	—
English iris books . . . . .	—
Mitchell books . . . . .	—
Check List (1939) . . . . . (29)	87.00
Check List (1949) . . . . . (499)	1,247.50
Other Books (color charts, etc.) . . . . .	385.00

### RECEIPTS FROM OTHER SOURCES—

Slides (Transfer of account) . . . . .	723.23
Bulletins . . . . .	91.00
AIS for TIS (England) . . . . .	94.50
Advertising . . . . .	842.25
Registrations . . . . .	326.04
Exhibition Committee . . . . .	145.30

### MISCELLANEOUS—

Including refunds, membership lists, etc. . . . .	896.80
Three \$1,000.00 bonds called . . . . .	3,000.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS . . . . .	\$22,642.62
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### ANALYSIS OF DISBURSEMENTS

SALARIES	<i>Jan.-Sept. 1952</i>
Gladys Williams . . . . .	\$ 1,650.00
Clerical & Bookkeeping . . . . .	900.00
Editor . . . . .	2,250.00
Assistant Editor . . . . .	200.00
Extra Help . . . . .	288.96
Secretary's Traveling Expenses . . . . .	—
Office Rent . . . . .	450.00
Refunds . . . . .	187.36
Miscellaneous . . . . .	181.91

Postage .....	702.19
Office Supplies .....	452.08
RVP Expenses .....	96.50
Committee Expenses .....	767.47
Advertising .....	392.78
Mitchell Books .....	—
Annual Meeting Expenses .....	—
Color Charts .....	275.68
New Check List .....	—
Bulletin	
Printing .....	5,030.00
Engraving .....	460.29
Total .....	<u>\$14,285.22</u>

### Membership Report — October 1, 1952

	<i>Nov. 1, 1950</i>	<i>Nov. 1, 1951</i>	<i>Oct. 1, 1952</i>
Renewals .....	2490	2650	2700
New Members .....	1084	844	744
Family .....	221	250	269
Sustaining .....	199	168	176
Life .....	67	67	73
Canadian .....	83	55	Included above
English .....	50	55	55
Others paid before current			
calendar year .....	436	227	298
	<u>4630</u>	<u>4316</u>	<u>4315</u>
July to July Non-renewals	163	651	481



## EXHIBITION REPORT

FERN IRVING, *Chairman*

### CALIFORNIA—

*Pummer Park, Hollywood* . . . The Thirteenth Annual Southern California Iris Show was presented by the Southern California Iris Society on April 26 and 27, at Pummer Park.

Winner of the Silver Medal Certificate of the AIS was Mrs. L. J. Lohman of Temple City.

Mr. Julian Wells, Montebello, won the Bronze Medal Certificate of AIS.

Pinnacle as exhibited by Mr. Edward H. Brennan was voted the Best Stalk in the Show award.

Gold Cup Winner of best flower arrangement featuring iris went to Mrs. Lee Lynch. The Gold Cup Winner of the best flower arrangement of flowers other than iris was Mrs. Mary Bush.

Ruffled Organdy exhibited by Mr. E. H. Brennan was given the Outstanding Seedling award.

Outstanding exhibits were the Court of Honor featuring AIS award winners of Southern California origin and an education exhibit featuring a clump of iris *Munzii* in full bloom exhibited by Dr. Lee Lenz.

*Sacramento* . . . Mr. W. O. Pankost President of the Northern California Iris Society was General Show Chairman of their Second Annual Show presented on April 26 and 27 in the Clunie Memorial Auditorium in McKinley Park. The attendance was well over 14,000 including many people who came from other states. All the visitors were astounded at the Exhibit of the Rainbow Hybridizing Gardens of Placerville, which won the bronze medal of the Sunset Magazine for the most valuable commercial display. The exhibit consisted of species of California, dwarf iris, intermediate iris, table iris and many of the new tall bearded varieties. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Austin are certainly to be congratulated for their exhibit.

Mr. Sidney Conger of Arcadia, Louisiana air-expressed a beautiful display of Louisiana iris. This type of iris is not often seen in our gardens on the coast and created much talk and conversation. Special recognition and a gold ribbon was awarded this unusual exhibit.

Some of the very latest Dutch iris were exhibited in the commercial class by Mr. and Mrs. Melrose of Modesto.

Mrs. Richard McGee of Sacramento won the Grand Champion with her entry of Ballet Dancer, an introduction of Dr. Kleinsorge. A twelve year old girl, Glenda Childs won the Silver Medal Certificate.

*San Jose* . . . An original and beautiful theme of "A World of Iris" was carried out in the show of the Iris Society of San Jose this year.

The idea was to trace the origination and travels of iris around the world stressing Holland, France and Egypt. The center of interest for the exhibit hall was a display of Egyptian tapestry, figurines and ceramics to show that iris was an official flower of the gods, used extensively for perfume, powder, etc. Holland was portrayed by a manequin in Dutch costume carrying a basket of Dutch iris standing in front of a planting of shrubbery and Dutch iris.

The French exhibit was a home setting with a French Provincial desk, a hooked rug, a Tole clock on the wall and a container of mixed flowers containing iris in pastel colors displayed on the desk. Mrs. Dorothea Warner, Chairman of the Show gave special credit to Mr. Nourse for an exhibit of native irises, to Mrs. Cleaves for a display of iris books, catalogs and various drawings, to members who made a display of "right" and "wrong" ways to make table arrangements. Judges were Harold Johnson, Stafford Jory and Ralph Nourse. The Silver Certificate went to Mr. V. L. Brady and the Bronze Certificate to Mrs. James Dumas.

*Santa Barbara* . . . "Fiesta del Iris" the Second annual show of the Santa Barbara Iris Society had its grand opening the evening of May 3. During the first three hours the attendance "clicker" showed well over 500 guests. The following day and a half another 1500 passed over the welcome mat. The show was staged in the Cabrillo Pavilion of the Native Sons of the Golden West Building located on the shores of the beautiful Pacific.

The foyer with its large bouquets of Sydney B. Mitchell iris was used as the promotional Information Bureau under the supervision of Mrs. Ralph J. Moon. The Specimen Stalks of some forty exhibitors were shown to great advantage in the spacious ballroom. The Exhibition tables were placed around a huge May Pole with streamers of the color of the spectrum leading to a base of rainbow colored iris. An attractive display of Pacific Coast native irises was shown by the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden.

Three seedlings were honored with Exhibition Certificates and recommended for introduction. The originators, Mrs. J. D. Moore, Marion Walker and Tell Muhlestein, were presented with oil paintings of their seedlings by a Santa Barbara artist.

One of the highlights of the "Fiesta del Iris" was the Sydney B. Mitchell Memorial Trophy given for the Best Plicata of the Show. Mrs. Mary Tapie won this with her specimen of Aldura. Esquire won Mrs. Ralph J. Moon the Sweepstakes Ribbon. Marion R. Walker was awarded the Silver Medal Certificate and Mrs. Clarence Wieske the Bronze Medal Certificate.

Clare W. Lovell, the General Chairman was ably assisted by Miss Margaret Blany and his show committee. Miss Archie McLean, J.

Clarke Cosgrove and George Murray were the AIS Judges. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hopson did the final staging of the specimens before the judging.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Santa Barbara Iris Society amazed the general public again! They ventured forth and entered a six-day flower show given by the Nineteenth District Agricultural Association of the State of California on July 15-20. A committee of three, Mrs. Wm. Burton, Mrs. Naida E. Stodden and Howard Runyan, were appointed to perform the task. During the actual setting up of the show the other sixteen participating flower societies, garden clubs, florists and nurseries wondered what an iris society could show in July.

Entry was made under the section for an Educational Display of potted plants. One side was arranged like a section of a patio—grass mat, reed table complete with an arrangement of iris and the invitation to join the American Iris Society backgrounded by a bamboo screen. Two sections of this screen were artfully covered with colored pictures of iris and the center section given to the name of the Society. The garden section was planted with clumps of various types of labelled irises. (Such as *Spuria*, *Stylosa*, crested, *moraea*, dwarf, intermediate, and a newly planted clump, a first year clump and one needing separation) The outcome—A BLUE RIBBON and a monetary award which will aid in putting on an even better iris show next spring.

#### IDAHO—

*Jerome* . . . The Magic Valley Iris Society in southern Idaho held its second annual iris show Monday, June 2 in the auditorium of the new Masonic Temple at Jerome, Idaho.

Forty-five exhibitors from ten valley towns placed 334 entries in fifty-three cultural classes and 34 entries in the artistic section. There were several non-competitive displays featuring specimen blooms of newer iris as well as courtesy exhibits by local commercial growers.

In a class calling for an arrangement of iris based on a song, "Blues in the Night," "Waydown in Missouri," and "On the Banks of the Wabash" were winning entries.

Winner of the Silver Medal Certificate of the AIS was Mrs. Helen Conrad, Castleford. Mrs. Alfred Kramer, Buhl was awarded the Certificate for the Bronze Medal. As a non-member of the AIS placing third highest in first and seconds in cultural section Mrs. Joe Wisecaver won a year's membership in the national society. Blue Rhythm exhibited by Mrs. Arthur N. Walker, Kimberly was declared best stalk in the show and won the purple Rosette Ribbon. Heigho entered by Mrs. Kramer was runner-up.

Mrs. Merle Clayville and Mrs. George Congleton received special prizes of iris roots. Iris varieties donated by local growers were awarded



as door prizes in three drawings during the afternoon and evening.

AIS judges for the cultural section were Mrs. C. W. Vallette and Mrs. Glen Suiter. Mrs. Paul Taber, Sr. and Mrs. Harry Severin judged the artistic arrangements.

Mrs. Darrel Ridney served as Show Chairman with Mrs. E. E. Adams, Show Secretary.

#### INDIANA—

*Muncie* . . . The Iris Growers of Eastern Indiana held their second iris show May 24, 25 at Muncie in the Studebaker Sales Room.

The AIS Silver Medal Certificate for greatest number of first prize points was awarded Mrs. R. E. Brooks of Spiceland. The Bronze Medal for second greatest number of first prize points was won by Mrs. Cleetis Wade of Anderson. The best specimen in the show, Snow Flurry, was shown by Mrs. Cleetis Wade.

The following were first place winners in Specimen Class: Mrs. Joe Fedor, Mrs. Howard Bajse, Mrs. R. E. Brooks, Mr. Forrest McCord, Mrs. Mable Gillum, Mr. R. E. Brooks, Mr. C. Scheskey and Mrs. Cleetis Wade.

Those winning in Artistic Arrangements: Miss Ruth Matthews, Mrs. Charles Adams, Mr. C. Scheskey, Mrs. M. E. Pond, Mrs. Forrest McCord, Mrs. Martha Mears, Mrs. Cleetis Wade and Mrs. F. J. Hazelbaker.

Mrs. Frances H. Horton of Elkhart was the judge for Horticulture.

#### KANSAS—

*Wichita* . . . The Wichita Iris Club staged its Fourth Annual Iris Exhibition at the Hall of Commons, Wichita University on May 10 and 11, 1952.

Due to continued cold weather most blossoms were small and many still showed the effects of the hail. 206 specimens were entered in the horticulture classes. Also many beautiful arrangements were entered in competition in the artistic classes. All were beautifully displayed by the committee headed by Mr. C. E. Peacock.

The Silver Medal of the AIS was won by Mrs. Thelma Schwinn. Mrs. Helen Graham won the Bronze Medal.

Award for the best iris specimen in the show went to Mrs. Helen Graham for specimen Melody Lane.

A new introduction with value to \$15.00 was given as a special prize to Mrs. Thelma Schwinn for winning the most prize points in the entire show, including both horticulture and artistic classes.

Peacock Iris Gardens won a second Bronze Medal for the best commercial display.

Iris Pretty Quadroon donated by Dr. Hugo Wall was awarded Mrs. T. R. Ripley for the largest number of Second Place Ribbons.

Winners of other awards were: Mrs. Ivy Peterson, Mr. O. L. Jones, Mrs. Thelma Schwinn, Mrs. Mary M. Baker, Mrs. Kenneth L. Robinson and Mrs. Ethel Graham.

Working on the judging panel were Mr. Henry F. Murphy and Mrs. E. C. Dafforn.

Special mention should be made of the fact that the most outstanding arrangement in the artistic classes was won by an amateur, a manual training teacher by profession. Yes, ladies, it was a man, one of the Jones boys. More power to you, O. L.

#### KENTUCKY—

*Louisville* . . . The Beechmont Garden Club staged their first iris show on May 15. The theme of "A Palette of Iris" was pointed up by a large, artist's palette with iris blooms around the border where paint daubs would be found on a real artist's palette. The blooms were fastened to the board by drilling holes for the stem and then placing a small pick through each stem where it came through the board.

Vatican Purple won the Award for Best Specimen in the Show, but had close competition with stalks of Spanish Peaks, Three Oaks and Lynn Langford. Mrs. Austin Speed won the AIS Silver Certificate, Mrs. William Mather, the Bronze Certificate and the Award of a Bronze Certificate for Commercial display went to J. H. Drake. The official judges were: Mrs. L. R. Robinson, Mrs. Leslie Abbott and Mrs. Arline Rawlins. Mrs. John Turner served as Show Chairman.

#### MINNESOTA—

*Minneapolis* . . . After one of the most severe winters in local history, iris growers in the Twin City area looked forward to a rather dismal iris season. Losses of 50% and more were reported by many growers while others reported almost complete loss of bloom stalks. Despite these adverse conditions the Twin City Iris Society went ahead with its plans for the annual show which was held May 31 and June 1 at the Minneapolis Savings and Loan Association Bldg.

Approximately 1000 specimen stalks were entered in competition and the quality as well as the quantity was excellent. An especially beautiful stalk of Blue Rhythm exhibited by Mr. G. B. Gable was adjudged Queen of the Show. This iris with five open flowers and sixteen buds on a perfectly branched stalk was the most perfect show specimen this writer has ever seen. Another pleasing feature of the show was the arrangement classes. The ingenuity and originality of the exhibitors were evident in the breath-taking beauty of the displays.

An indication of things to come was expressed in the quality of the seedlings that were entered. Honorable mention ribbons for their efforts at hybridizing went to Bud Straub, Mrs. Edythe Burns and Rev. Paul A. Folkers.

Mr. G. B. Gable won the AIS Silver Medal Certificate and the Bronze Medal Certificate was won by Mr. Duane Foss of Foss Iris Gardens.

#### MISSOURI—

*Joplin* . . . The second AIS show staged by the Iris Circle of Joplin was held in the recreation hall of the South Christian Church.

Long tables covered with white held bottles which were painted in green and yellow for single specimen stalks; vases and baskets were used for collections and assortments.

265 specimens were shown by 22 exhibitors in the three divisions, tall bearded iris, collections and beardless.

Mrs. Ted James with the highest number of points was winner of the AIS Silver Certificate.

Mrs. Ben Putnam and Mrs. Byron Fly were tied on points for the AIS Bronze Certificate.

Mrs. Ben Putnam was Sweepstakes Winner with Golden Spike.

A favorite feature of the show was the iris counter where visitors were allowed to purchase iris rhizomes donated by the members.

Mrs. J. A. Sapp and Mr. Ray Rickman were the AIS Judges for the show.

*Kansas City* . . . The Greater Kansas City Iris Society held its Fifth Annual Show in the Exhibition Hall of the Municipal Auditorium on May 24 and 25.

There was a very creditable display of iris and quite a few of the newer varieties were seen on the show tables.

The peony growers in this region also cooperated with this show and massed displays of lovely peonies formed a background for the iris.

Mrs. Roy Galloway of Kansas City North won the AIS Certificate for the largest number of blue ribbons; Mr. P. M. Petersen rated second and Carson Clardy third. In the Commercial Competition, Sterling Iris Gardens rated first and The Iris Garden, Merriam, Kansas, second. Mrs. Roy Galloway also won the Purple Rosette for her specimens of Vatican Purple judged the best flowers in the show.

Judges were Mrs. C. C. McClannahan of Knobnoster, Mo., Ray Rickman of Joplin, Dr. Henry Schirmer and Carl Schirmer of St. Joseph.

A particular spot of interest was a basket of Grinter seedlings which included a lovely stalk of Mr. Grinter's new Golden Monarch, a late bloomer.

Some unusually nice arrangements of irises were displayed and increased interest in the Artistic Division was very evident.

*Kirksville* . . . Over one thousand persons attended the Twelfth Annual Kirksville Flower Show held at Greenwood Auditorium May 25 and 26. The registration revealed that spectators came from all over North Missouri to see the show. Sponsored by the Floriculture Club



with the assistance of the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce and members of the American Iris Society the show was considered a success.

The Arrangement Section was interesting with several classes for iris arrangements, some line arrangements and others to illustrate the title of a book, a poem or musical composition. The class in or on a naturalistic container from field or woods brought forth some very interesting material and lovely arrangements. Twenty-nine persons exhibited in this section with a total of 99 entries. Mrs. O. C. Sorrell was winner of the sweepstakes.

Many fine specimen iris were on display in the thirty-two classes with twenty-five persons exhibiting. The prize winning stalk of the show was a white iris, L. E. May, shown by Mrs. O. H. West. Two locally introduced iris were awarded first place in their respective classes. Colonel Bob, developed by Dr. Walter H. Ryle won the blue ribbon in the red class. Chieftain, one of Dr. Lewis Clevenger's iris won a first in its class.

Other cultural classes were peonies, roses and perennials in season. The time of the show was a little early for roses and some peonies but there was a nice display of perennials. Iris sweepstakes were won by Mrs. E. W. Scott.

Two commercial exhibits by the local florists added to the beauty of the show, C. C. Thompson's well grown blooming plants exhibiting culture and Shouse Floral Co. a display of corsages and arrangements.

One educational display featured examples of dried material which can be used in dried arrangements. Another exhibit of the Club's "Garden Center" showed books, magazines, plant society bulletins, examples of propagation and other items of interest.

An important factor in the success of the show was the staging done by Howard Stevenin. Mr. Stevenin managed to tie in the five different classes in a harmonious manner which made a pleasing effect. The visitors agreed that the two day show was well balanced with outstanding exhibits in every division.

Three AIS Judges from St. Louis County who placed the awards were: Mrs. H. L. Knapp of Valley Park, Mrs. R. P. Smith, Kirkwood and Mrs. Charles Witcher.

## NEBRASKA—

*Hastings* . . . The Hastings Council of Garden Clubs presented the First Annual Iris Exhibition in Hastings in the City Auditorium on Thursday, May 29, 1952.

General Chairman of the show was Mrs. Albert Alber, Doniphan, Neb. and the Secretary of the show was Mrs. Wm. J. Sheehan, Hastings.

The show was judged by Mrs. Clara Bender assisted by Mrs. Dwight Porter.

A large number of exhibits were entered. Much interest was shown in iris seedlings, and some very beautiful and unusual specimens were on exhibit.

The Artistic Section of the show was especially beautiful with many attractive arrangements entered. The Council was much indebted to Roger Harris, a local commercial grower for his display of approximately 120 different named varieties of iris and a number of seedlings.

The sponsors considered the response to the show very satisfactory and are planning to make the event an annual one for Hastings and the surrounding community.

*Omaha . . .* The Greater Omaha Iris Society presented its third annual show at the Riverview Park Pavilion May 25. Over 5000 visitors thronged the aisles to see the wealth of beautiful blooms exhibited. Mrs. C. A. Hagelin received the Silver Medal Certificate, and Mr. L. F. Kelly the Bronze Medal Certificate. Mr. Kelly also won the Purple Rosette and the Omaha Society's Copper Iris Trophy for the show's best specimen flower which was a perfect stalk of Chivalry.

A color classification committee, headed by the president, Mr. J. Arthur Nelson and Mrs. Nelson worked for many months preparing a color chart. Over 700 varieties of iris were classified according to color and this was of tremendous help to the entries committee, and speeded up the acceptance and placing of the hundreds of entries.

Excellent publicity was given by the Omaha World-Herald and the neighborhood weekly newspapers and the local radio stations. Mr. Chester Tompkins of Sioux City, Iowa judged the show again this year and did his usual fine job.

#### OKLAHOMA—

*Enid . . .* The North Central Iris Society held their fifth annual iris show May 10 and 11 in Enid, Oklahoma. A nice display of 350 specimen iris were entered by 43 exhibitors.

The Silver Certificate was won by Mrs. Gus Reimer and the Bronze Certificate by Mrs. A. B. Watkins. Mrs. Ed Kroller of Ponca City won the Purple Rosette given by the local society for the best specimen stalk in the show, Blue Rhythm. Mrs. Ed Shaal won the Gold Rosette for best arrangement and Mrs. Gus Reimer placed first in corsages.

The judges of the specimen stalks were J. Lee Rogers of Bison and Mrs. G. E. Sawyer and Mrs. J. E. Zenor of Oklahoma City. Mrs. J. R. Weldon of Enid judged the arrangements.

A display of Dykes Medal winners including the American, French and English introductions 1927 through 1950 was a feature of the show.

Mrs. A. B. Watkins was show chairman and Miss Maude Bartlett was the show secretary.

*Oklahoma City* . . . The annual amateur iris show sponsored by the Oklahoma Iris Society was held Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, at the Oklahoma City University Art Center. "An Iris Festival" was in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Society organized May 3, 1932. Approximately 1400 people attended including guests from five states and 40 Oklahoma cities and towns.

Sixty exhibitors entered 621 specimens in the Specimen Division, and 9 exhibitors entered 34 arrangements. Three commercial growers, Mr. H. A. Raboin, Mr. R. H. Schilling and Mr. Eugene Hunt participated in the newly established competitive class for the best commercial display.

Awards given by the AIS were: Silver Medal Certificate to Mrs. Arthur Lee Smith; Bronze Medal Certificate to Mrs. E. A. Benson; Purple Rosette Ribbon to Mrs. E. G. Sawyers for Queen of the Show, Sunset Blaze; Bronze Medal Certificate for best commercial display to Mr. H. A. Raboin; two Exhibition Certificates to seedlings of Mrs. L. A. Masterson and Mrs. Earl F. Sanders.

The Oklahoma Iris Society awarded a Gold Rosette Ribbon to Mrs. Cyrus C. Stanley for the best arrangement of the show. Prizes of iris rhizomes were awarded for first prize points in arrangements as follows: first prize, Mrs. Cyrus C. Stanley; second prize, Mrs. Martin Clary; third prize, Mrs. Howard Estes.

Judges for the Specimen Division were: Mrs. J. A. Sapp, Mrs. Paul Updegraff and Mr. J. Lee Rogers.

Judges for the Arrangement Division were: Mrs. Lona Eaton Miller, Mrs. E. A. Benson and Mrs. T. E. Kyle.

The schedule was enlarged this year to include 46 classes in the tall bearded section which allowed a greater number of entries per exhibitor. Soft music furnished a lovely background for the show and new award cards bearing the picture of a blue iris added to the beautiful exhibition.

*Stillwater* . . . Dr. H. F. Murphy and Professor Raymond Kays were the judges for the Amateur Iris Show held in Stillwater May 7, 1952. Mrs. Arthur Clark won the Silver Medal Certificate and Mrs. B. E. Bliss the Bronze Medal Certificate.

Commercial exhibits were arranged by Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Schiefelbusch, Rev. A. S. Hock and Dr. H. F. Murphy.

Educational exhibits included a collection of geraniums shown by a senior horticulture student at Oklahoma A. & M. College, five different Bulletins of the AIS and leaflets showing the proper division and planting of iris. Posters showing award winners for the past three years were on display.



## TEXAS—

*Belton* . . . The Belton Iris Society, organized less than a year ago, staged its first iris show on April 18, at the Carnegie Library in Belton, Texas. The forty-five exhibitors made two hundred and four entries.

Mrs. Harry Frey served as General Chairman and also as Schedule Chairman. To Mrs. Frey goes the greater part of the credit for our fine show because she has been the inspiration and the energetic force behind the club and also the show. She was ably assisted by Mrs. Arthur O'Connor and Mrs. Nelson Hander as Co-Chairman of Staging; Mrs. John R. Bigham as Entry Chairman; Miss Sadie Oliver as Classification Chairman; and Mrs. Roy Potts and Mr. J. W. Pittman as Publicity Co-Chairman.

The greatest number of first prize points was won by Mrs. Harry Frey and the second number of first prize points was won by Mrs. C. F. McDonald.

Mrs. John Oliver and Mrs. Leland Duke using the surplus flowers made a number of very attractive arrangements which were not judged but were used for decoration only.

An education exhibit of posters made by members using pictures, hand paintings and drawings attracted much attention. The posters were made by Mrs. Nelson Hander, Mrs. C. F. McDonald, Mrs. H. H. Herring, Mrs. W. D. Seals, Mrs. Ed Franklin, Mrs. John Fellrath, Mrs. C. G. Parker, Mrs. Ed Dice and Mrs. H. C. Farrell.

The cultural classes of this show were ably judged by Mrs. Preston A. Childers of Temple, Texas.

*Gainesville* . . . "Weather, or Not" was the name chosen by Flower Show Chairman, Mrs. W. B. Ballew and Committee for the spring flower show held April 23 at the Community Center Bldg. Two days prior to the show the wind and rain did quite a lot of damage to the iris. The name of our show was certainly appropriate but we had a great number of specimens to show. Mrs. Claud McCarty was awarded the Silver Medal Certificate for the best specimen in the show and for the most Blue Ribbons. Mrs. Dock Dudley was awarded the Bronze Medal by having the largest number of second Blue Ribbons.

## WISCONSIN—

*Milwaukee* . . . The Wisconsin Iris Society held their show in the Mitchell Park Conservatory, Milwaukee, June 7 and 8, with an attendance of 5,264 people.

The Society was honored by the presence of Mr. David Hall and Mr. Rholin Cooley who drove up from Wilmette, Illinois.

In the main entrance iris were planted in large pots and placed in a natural setting among ferns and other plants which are permanent in this part of the conservatory.

Judges for the cultural classes were Mr. Alfred Boerner and Dr. Carl M. Schwendener. Mrs. Fred Marquardt and Mrs. S. J. Hirsch judged the artistic arrangements.

The Silver Medal Certificate was awarded to Mr. Arthur Blodgett of Waukesha, and the Bronze Medal Certificate to Mr. Robert Reinhardt.

Mrs. Donald Splitt of Milwaukee was awarded Queen of the Show for a spike of Snow Flurry.

The Best Seedling Award went to Dr. Allen Kriz of Elm Grove for his large white seedling with a yellow flush near the haft.

The past two years I have tried to write a small report for each show even though nothing was sent in except the application blank. This year, the large number of shows not writing a report made it seem impossible to do that many reports and make each one different and worthwhile. It is pleasing to note the number of new towns included in the list of shows and from early inquiries there will be many more new ones in 1953. It is expected that the Exhibition committee will have available for 1953 shows, a Rosette ribbon for Artistic Sweepstakes which may be purchased the same as the Rosette for "Best Specimen in the Show." This does not mean a change in AIS policy toward the Artistic section of Iris shows, merely an added service for small clubs not requiring a large number of ribbons.

#### Exhibition Certificates — 1952

Albright, Margaret	51-1A	Lavender blue self, blue beard
	52-1	Violet self
Babson, S. L.	B-41-6	
		Medium blue
Baker, O. M.	50-07	(Blue Rhythm x Helen McGregor)
Banyard, Frank H.	B-12	(Bucaneer x ?)
Brenan, Edward H.	Ruffled Organdy	
Craig, Tom	1-52	
	3-52	
	4-52	
Crosby, Luzon	Mexiglow	Brown blend with blue blaze
Dodson, Mrs. Earl	52-1	(Hall 44-20 x Pink Reflec- tion) Good substance, good clear pink color, fine branching.

Larsen, Carl	49-36	Plicata
	49-11	Dark Red
Muhlestein, Tell	52-7	Tan yellow blend
		(Burgundy Rose x Pink
McDouall, Mrs. K.	52-11	Ruffles) Orchid pink
		with crimped edge.
Vallette, Mrs. Wilma	Pearlimohr	Old parchment self with
		lavender flush. Mohr
		type.
Wall, Hugo	51-40A	(Spanish Peaks x Day-
		break) Pink blend
Wallace, M. D.	49-21	Cream white
	50-76	Pale pink

### Co-operating Iris Shows for Which No Written Report Was Received

Devon Garden Club, Devon, Conn.  
 Atlanta Iris Group, Atlanta, Ga.  
 Jenkinsburg Garden Club, Jenkinsburg, Ga.  
 Rome Federated Garden Clubs, Rome, Ga.  
 Charter Garden Club, West Point, Ga.  
 Iris Garden Club, Newcastle, Ind.  
 Hutchinson Iris Club, Hutchinson, Kansas  
 Scott County Chapter, AIS, Scott City, Kan.  
 Men's Garden Club of Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
 Shreveport Iris Society, Shreveport, La.  
 Garden Club of Lansdowne, Maryland  
 Central Michigan Iris Society, Flint, Mich.  
 Mio Irisarians, Mio, Mich.  
 Garden Study Club, Willmar, Minn.  
 Central Missouri Iris Society, Columbia, Mo.  
 St. Louis Horticultural Society, St. Louis, Mo.  
 Atkinson Iris Society, Atkinson, Nebr.  
 Raleigh Garden Club, Raleigh, N. Carolina  
 Muskogee Iris Club, Muskogee, Okla.  
 Norman Council of Garden Clubs, Norman, Okla.  
 Blue Mountain Iris Clubs, La Grande, Oregon  
 Garden Exchange Club, Umatilla, Oregon  
 Garden Club Council of Greater Columbia, Columbia, S. Carolina  
 Spartanburg Garden Club Council, Spartanburg, S. Carolina  
 Yankton Garden Club, Yankton, S. Dakota  
 Chillicothe Garden Club, Chillicothe, Texas  
 Jolly Garden Club, Marshall, Texas  
 Margaret Wynne Garden Club, Wills Point, Texas  
 Utah Iris Society, Salt Lake City, Utah  
 Iris Garden Club, Walla Walla, Wash.



## PROGRESS REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AWARDS CLASSIFICATION

L. F. RANDOLPH

The phenomenal growth of the AIS during the past decade was due in no small measure to the development of interest in irises other than the popular Tall Bearded sorts. It can no longer be truthfully said, as it was not many years ago, that in the United States there is little interest in anything other than bigger and better Tall Bearded irises.

A logical development that has accompanied the increased interest in these various groups of iris has been the creation of special awards, in addition to the Dykes Memorial Medal which traditionally has been awarded only to Tall Bearded varieties.

Within the past few years the AIS has established the Mary Swords Debaillon Award for Louisiana irises, the Caparne Award for the Dwarfs, the Morgan Award for the Sibericas, and at the last annual meeting of the Society held in Saint Louis the directors authorized the establishment of the Eric Nies Award for the Spurias.

Irises that receive these special awards are eligible for the Dykes Medal, as a result of action taken by the AIS directors at Nashville in November, 1951. This action and the provision that the Award of Merit is not available to the Dwarf, Louisiana and Siberica irises in effect make the special awards for groups other than TB equivalent to the Award of Merit.

The various awards that have been established cannot be administered effectively unless each of the groups for which an award is available has been clearly defined. To be generally applicable and readily administered, these definitions should be based on horticultural, as well as genetic and taxonomic characters. Of primary importance are such features as the shape and size of the blooms, height of the flower stalk, branching, number of buds, season of bloom, soil and climatic requirements. Parentages, crossability and chromosome number are of inestimable value in establishing natural group relationships and their usefulness to the plant breeder and geneticist is well known. Since information concerning chromosome relationships is available for only a relatively small number of garden varieties of iris it is necessary to correlate this information with data on crossability relationships, garden characteristics and taxonomic features in establishing groups that are useful to the horticulturist.

In considering the problem of classification for awards purposes no attempt has been made to establish the validity of species or to define within narrow limits the taxonomic groups to which each belongs. These are problems for the professional taxonomist. However, the re-

tention in a horticultural classification of species having questionable taxonomic validity can be readily justified since such entities often possess hidden gene differences of considerable value to the plant breeder interested in developing new horticultural varieties.

The Spuria, Siberica and Hexagona (Louisiana irises) Sections seem to be adequately delimited for Awards purposes at the present time. From the rather meager information concerning parentages of recently recorded varieties in these sections it appears that most of them have arisen as intrasectional hybrids, and as yet no serious problems have arisen concerning intersectional hybrids that are difficult to classify.

The Spuria and Siberica sections have remained essentially as they were described by Dykes in his monograph on the genus *Iris*. With respect to the Louisiana irises it has been specified that the species to be included are those described by Small and Viosca. In each of these sections the species and collected varieties, together with the garden hybrids derived from them should be given an equivalent status for awards purposes.

### **Dwarfs Present Different Situation**

A very different situation exists with respect to the classification of the Dwarf Bearded irises of which there are many different kinds. Traditionally, the dwarf designation has been restricted to the European Dwarf Bearded irises. However, there are species and varieties of dwarf stature in every major subdivision of the genus, as for example in the *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* sections, the *Reticulatas*, *Junos* and other bulbous irises. There are many dwarf species among the *Apogons* of which readers of Bulletin 117 had a fascinating glimpse in the excellent article by Stephen Hamblen. Many of these various dwarf forms other than the *Eupogon* dwarfs are valuable garden subjects that deserve to be better known and more extensively used in borders and rock gardens.

In establishing the Caparne Award it was the intention of the AIS directors that it be limited to the Dwarf Bearded Section, which was defined in the Revised Classification of 1948 (A.I.S. Bulletin 109) as "Species, forms and hybrids of *I. chamaeiris*, *olbiensis*, *balkana*, *reichenbachii*, *pumila*, *mellita* and other early blooming dwarf iris. Advanced generation hybrids of Dwarf Bearded and other Bearded iris having most of the characteristics of typical Dwarf iris."

Since the adoption of the Revised Classification it has become apparent that this definition should be modified to accommodate first generation hybrids as well as advanced generation hybrids of dwarf stature. At the present time the most important first-generation dwarf hybrids are those that have originated from (1) crosses of *pumila* and Tall Bearded varieties, and (2) hybrids of *Chamaeiris* dwarfs or ol-





When present classification was adopted, it was generally understood that dwarf by tall bearded crosses produced largely intermediates which were tall and branched. Recent experience indicates that true pumila crossed with 48 chromosome tall bearded irises may produce typical dwarfs. Above seedling from (Golden Hind x Easter Morn) x pumila is unbranched, six inches in height and is an  $F_1$  hybrid.

biensis derivatives and the Regelia species *I. flavissima*, *arenaria* and *I. bloudowii* which are dwarf types having the conspicuous aril and the same chromosome number as the taller species belonging to the Regelia section.

Examples of the first mentioned category are the varieties Baria, Fairy Flax and Green Spot which closely resemble typical Chamaeiris dwarfs in height and blooming season but have much improved form and substance. The pumila-tall hybrids have the same number of chromosomes as the Chamaeiris dwarfs and their pairing behavior is identical in both (AIS Bulletin 123, 1951). Also, both kinds cross readily and produce fertile progeny of uniform dwarf stature.

First generation hybrids of *flavissima* or *arenaria* and 40-chromosome varieties of Chamaeiris or *olbiensis* origin are distinctive and very attractive garden subjects. Bronya, Cream Tart, Keepsake and Mist



O'Pink are examples of such hybrids. Incidentally, seedlings from some of the crosses of this sort are appreciably taller than either parent and not infrequently exceed 12 inches in height. This suggests that the 40-chromosome dwarfs are in fact allopolyploid hybrids of dwarf-tall parentage.

Very recently, Mr. G. W. Darby of Welwyn, England has called my attention to a dwarf seedling of his with unbranched stem 8 inches in height of Azurea x (Snow Carnival x Golden Hind) parentage which has 44 chromosomes. Bride and Silver Elf are other examples of 44-chromosome dwarfs of either first or second generation dwarf-tall parentage.<sup>1</sup>

Exploratory tests of the crossability of other species of dwarfs with TB varieties indicate that additional kinds of first generation hybrids of dwarf stature can be produced. Judging from results already achieved it may be confidently predicted that such species hybrids will be a very promising source of new kinds of dwarfs.

During the five years that have intervened since the Revised Classification was formulated, developments in dwarf iris breeding have established a need for further change in the definition of the dwarfs. It is therefore recommended that the description of the Dwarf Bearded section in the Revised Classification be changed to include first generation as well as advanced generation hybrids. This can be accomplished simply by inserting the words "First generation and" at the beginning of the second sentence of the definition quoted previously. This sentence will then read "First generation and advanced generation hybrids of Dwarf Bearded and other bearded irises having most of the characteristics of typical dwarf irises."

It should be noted that flexibility in the interpretation of what constitutes a dwarf iris was provided by the Revised Classification, which states that "... bearded irises having *most* of the characteristics of typical dwarf irises" should be placed in the Dwarf Bearded Section. For example, a height limitation of 12 inches is generally accepted for the dwarfs (AIS Bulletin 117, p. 33, 1950), but if a seedling has all of the other characteristics of a dwarf and is slightly taller than 12 inches it should not be excluded. Similarly, typical dwarfs are unbranched and usually have only 2 or 3 buds in a terminal cluster but the fact that the variety *Gracilis* is branched and the stalk produces more than the usual number of buds for a dwarf did not keep it from being given the DB classification in the 1939 Check List.

Garden varieties of complex hybrid origin cannot be expected to fall

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<sup>1</sup> There is a remote possibility that some 44-chromosome varieties of dwarfs originated as hybrids of 40- and 48-chromosome dwarfs but this is highly improbable in these cases since 48-chromosome dwarfs have never been widely distributed and apparently were unknown in England and the United States when these varieties were produced.

into one or the other of a given series of categories arbitrarily defined for convenience in making awards or for any other purpose. Height differences, branching habit, season of bloom and other distinguishing characteristics of dwarf irises are controlled by different genes. The particular combination of genes received by seedlings in progenies segregating for differences in height etc., will determine whether or not they have most of the characteristics of a typical dwarf. Those which do should be classed as dwarfs; those which do not should be placed in some other category.

The suggested change in the definition of the dwarfs to include first generation as well as advanced generation hybrids having predominantly dwarf characteristics does not necessitate any change in the definitions of the Intermediate or Tall Bearded Sections. The Revised Classification limited the IB category to DB and TB hybrids of intermediate height and blooming period, and referred TB varieties of reduced stature to Border Iris and Table Iris categories.

The number of Intermediates registered during the five year period 1947-51 averaged only about five varieties yearly. But with the recent appearance of Intermediates that are more fertile than the 44-chromosome *Chamaeiris*-Tall Bearded hybrids, as for example the 48-chromosome Progenitor and the 40-chromosome Tall Bearded-pumila hybrids of intermediate height and blooming period, it is predicted that there will be renewed interest in the Intermediates.

In order to retain the distinctive, uniform character of the Intermediates it is imperative that the rules be changed as recommended above to exclude first generation Tall-pumila hybrids of dwarf stature such as Baria, Fairy Flax and Green Spot from this section. If all first generation hybrids of dwarfs and talls continue to be classed as Intermediates irrespective of height differences in conformity with the Revised Classification the intended distinction between the DB and IB categories will no longer prevail.

Other difficulties in classification for awards purposes have appeared recently in connection with a large group of garden hybrids that combine the unique characteristics of *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* irises with the greater vigor and hardiness of the *Eupogons* or true bearded varieties. Included in this group are the *Oncobreds* of C. G. White, *Eupogocyclus* hybrids Capitola IB-Mac and William Mohr and many of their derivatives, various *Eupogoregelia* hybrids and certain combinations of *Regiocyclus* hybrids such as Hermione with both dwarf and tall *Eupogons*.

Combinations of *Regelia* and *Oncocyclus* hybrids with Dwarf Bearded varieties have produced dwarfs such as Beauty Spot, Icicle and Tantalizer, which exhibit distinctive color patterns and growth habit traceable to their Onco or *Regelia* parentage. Combinations of Tall Bearded



varieties with *Oncos* and *Regelias* produce varieties varying in height from intermediate to tall and repeated crossing to the tall produces varieties that are difficult or impossible to distinguish from pure Tall Bearded sorts. Such varieties should be placed in the TB category even though they are known to have a mixed ancestry.

The Revised Classification provided separate categories for bisectional *Eupogocyclus* and *Eupogoregelia* hybrids, and for trisectional hybrids involving among others *Regeliocyclus*—*Eupogon* hybrids a Miscellaneous Bearded Hybrids section was established. The problem of classifying these extremely variable hybrids would be much simplified if they were grouped together in a single category. It is therefore recommended that the *Eupogocyclus* and *Eupogoregelia* Sections together with the distinctive *Eupogoregeliocyclus* hybrids previously assigned to the MB section be combined in a new section having the following description.

*Oncobred Hybrids*.—Bisectional *Eupogocyclus* and *Eupogoregelia* hybrids and trisectional *Eupogoregeliocyclus* hybrids derived from species and varieties of *Oncocyclus*, *Regelia* and *Eupogon* irises and exhibiting readily identifiable *Oncocyclus* or *Regelia* characteristics, especially traits of garden value such as growth habit, unique form and distinctive color patterns of the blooms; stems varying in height from a few inches to three feet or more, branched or unbranched; number of buds one to many; season of bloom beginning well in advance of and continuing throughout the Tall Bearded season. Seeds with the aril that is characteristic of *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* species and hybrids may be present or absent.

The term 'Oncobred' was originally used by C. G. White to describe garden varieties developed as hybrids of *Onco*, *Regelia* and Tall Bearded parentage. In recent years it has come to be applied more generally to various hybrids of *Onco*, *Regelia* and *Eupogon* derivation. With Mr. White's permission the *Oncobreds* are here defined as an assemblage of varieties having in their ancestry *Eupogon* and *Onco*, *Eupogon* and *Regelia*, or *Eupogon*, *Onco* and *Regelia* species and varieties, which have conspicuous *Onco* and/or *Regelia* garden characteristics. It seems advisable to exclude from this group of hybrids the pure *Onco* and *Regelia* species and *Onco-Regelia* hybrids which are quite distinct and have limited value as garden subjects in many parts of the world.

The dividing line between *Oncobreds* and *Eupogons* should be determined on the basis of whether or not the variety in question has readily distinguishable *Onco* or *Regelia* characteristics of garden value. Varieties of *Onco* or *Regelia* parentage which are indistinguishable from the *Eupogons* should be classed as Tall Bearded.

Growers who make a specialty of *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* hybrids are currently employing various classifications. The proposed *Oncobred*



Hybrids Section will include essentially the same group of varieties listed by Lloyd Austin as 'Oncobreds,' and by Walter Marx as 'Onco and Regelia Bred Irises.' The Oncobred designation is reserved for White's introductions by Tom Craig who describes his own similar originations as *Oncocyclus* and *Regelia* hybrids.

Since the height of Oncobred Hybrids is extremely variable it is suggested that they be assigned an OB or similar designation by the Registrar and that dwarf, intermediate and tall varieties be given DOB, IOB and TOB designations, or that the height of each variety be recorded in inches at the time of registration.

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*(Continued from page 2)*

work. They have been organized into a Board of Counsellors under the leadership of W. F. Scott, Jr., a vice-president of the society, and this should make for increased efficiency. I wish to personally thank the Regional Vice-Presidents for their co-operation with me in the work of the Awards Committee; and a special word of thanks to those who have completed their terms of service this year—Merton Brownell, John Lyster, Louis McDonald, Mrs. Sue Revell, Gerald Donahue, Mrs. Haase, Harold Johnson, W. F. Scott, Jr., and Mrs. Ethel Ricker.

The institution of special awards for dwarfs, Siberians, Louisianas, and lately spurias, all of equal rank with our Award of Merit, is an expression of the growing interest in other classes of iris. No longer can it be said that this is a tall bearded iris society. There is already in evidence a considerable interest in our west coast species, and I hope that this diversification may soon broaden to include a revived interest in Japanese iris.

As recently as 1948 we adopted a Revised Classification for Iris, but in the short space of time that has elapsed since then the work of our breeders in producing intersectional hybrids has made it inadequate. Many of the modern irises are of mixed parentage and difficult to classify. Like the daffodils, we may find that iris must be classified according to garden characteristics rather than botanical derivations. A committee under the direction of Dr. L. F. Randolph is working on this difficult problem.

Our Exhibition Committee under the chairmanship of Mrs. Fern Irving is of great benefit in spreading interest in the society. A special instruction and information book for shows has been printed and the number of shows throughout the country is increasing. Local iris societies are springing up everywhere. Each issue of the Bulletin mentions one or more. These local groups, where the members can get together frequently, talk iris, and show slides, are great fun, and keep

up the interest throughout the year. In some clubs all are members of the American Iris Society; in other clubs many of them are not members, but we can hope that they will soon become so interested that they will want to join our society.

From the first the society has published a quarterly bulletin, giving opportunity for frequent contacts with our members. I consider this a valuable feature, preferable to a single year book, and which I hope will be continued. The quality and variety of the articles are constantly improving. Some members like scientific articles, some like varietal notes, there are beginners and advanced fanciers, there are those interested in special classes of iris, and our editor strives to give all a fair share of the Bulletin space. If he asks you for an article, please respond. He can only print what he receives.

Inflation has its effect on our expense account. Dues have just been advanced a half dollar to \$4.00 per year, but you can still belong at the old rate of \$3.50 by paying for three years in advance. Our increased membership itself has increased our expenses, requiring more paid helpers. It takes upwards of \$20,000 a year to run the society. It costs \$2,000 to print a bulletin. All of which adds up to increased membership. Here is where Mr. Scott, our chairman of the Membership Committee, comes in. With him as a spark plug plans are on foot to increase our membership.

Laboring under great difficulties, Mrs. George D. Robinson, our registrar, has succeeded in replacing missing records and bringing our registrations up to date. Few realize the tremendous task she had and our thanks go to her. Full and accurate records of iris names are for the benefit of the breeder as well as the other members of the society, and I hope that all hybridizers will co-operate with her.

Next year we are inviting the American Iris Society to New England. Our Regional Vice-President, George Pride, and his committee are making careful plans to entertain you. We have many new irises from all parts of the country. The tentative dates are June 4, 5 and 6. We hope that many of you will come.

HAROLD W. KNOWLTON

## **REGION 18 HOLDS FALL MEETING**

The Fall Meeting of Region 18 was held Saturday, November 22, 1952, at the Pickwick Hotel, in Kansas City, Missouri. There were some sixty members present. The most important business of the meeting was to have been the introduction of the new RVP, Mr. Ray K. Rickman, of Joplin, Missouri. Unfortunately, one of Mr. Rickman's close associates passed away two days before the meeting, and it was impossible for the new RVP to come to Kansas City. Mr. Rickman requested Mrs. J. A. Sapp, of Joplin, to act as his emissary, and to present his message of regret to the members as well as his outline of a new plan of organization for the Region.

Those present heard short talks by Mr. Carl Schirmer, Director and Treasurer of the Society, and Mr. W. F. Scott, Jr., the retiring RVP, and Director of the Society. The speakers were introduced by Mr. P. M. Petersen, President of the Greater Kansas City Iris Society, under whose sponsorship the meeting was held.

### **Membership Campaign Announced**

Plans for the 1953 National Membership Campaign were explained by Mr. Scott; who also read a message from RVP Rickman outlining specific plans for the campaign of Region 18, including an impressive list of prizes. Those present expressed lively interest in the campaign, and said they felt large gains in long-term members could be realized.

A large collection of Kodachrome slides was shown, including some exciting slides taken by Mr. Petersen to illustrate progress he is making in his program to improve the rendition of the color Blue in Kodachrome transparencies. Mr. Petersen would not divulge the details of his process despite great interest shown.

### **Spring Meeting in Joplin**

The Iris Clubs of Joplin, through Mrs. Sapp, extended an invitation to the Region to hold its Spring Meeting in Joplin, and the invitation was accepted. The time and dates to be set later, but to be approximately May fifth. This date will not conflict with dates of the National Meeting, nor will it conflict with bloom dates for the northern two-thirds of the Region.



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**ARMOUR BRIGHT**—(Edmison)—Solid golden yellow, very broad of parts. The wide hafts are free of venation; the falls are horizontally flaring; standards cupped and firm but not touching. A bold masculine style, its huge size and heavy substance is relieved by minute crimping all round the petals. Growth is strong but not fast, and stalk and branching are adequate. The season is very late but only two weeks, and the spot-resistant foliage is a bit short for the 38" stems. A steady parent either way, it will give its syle, not unlike Tobacco Road, to pure whites or richest blends, many with very late bloom. (Snoqualmie x Prairie Sunset). \$5.00

**MINDEMOYA**—(Miles)—From our eminent winner of the Foster Memorial Plaque comes this new blue iris, appropriately named for the surpassingly beautiful lake on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron. Described in Bulletin 119, seedling 46-1-H. Branching, strong stalks, and foliage in especially nice conformation. Edges of petals smooth, both standards and falls beautifully waved, like a Louis XV carving. It has the smoothness and deep colour of VANDA, and the blueness and broad form of ELIZABETH OF ENGLAND. From entirely different lines of breeding from all modern blues, it will be of inestimable value to hybridizers. 36". Midseason. (VANDA x ELIZABETH OF ENGLAND). \$15.00

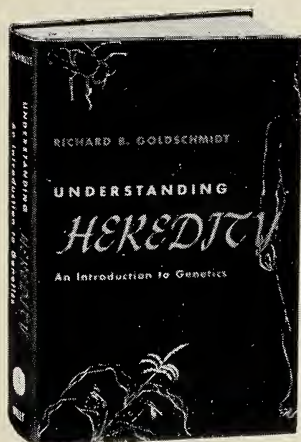
**OKON**—(Kummer)—At last an aril-blooded iris that shows its ancestry in the flower but not in the growing habits. Its blooming season is ideal, about two weeks before the first tall-bearded. Lovely, abundant, slender foliage in proportion to the 12" slender strong stems. Two terminals, no branching. The flower strongly resembles its onco-regelia pollen parent in its style and in the delicate veining of deeper shade throughout, and the indefinite signal below the beard. Done in two tints of red-violet, it is very deeply ruffled throughout, making it much the most beautiful dwarf I've seen, and the finest iris for table centre imaginable. Mr. Kummer is an experimenter with many plants, but this bit of luck will make him famous among irisarians. (Dark dwarf x unnamed onco-regelia). \$7.50

**WABASHINE**—(Edmison)—The splendid performance of this iris either in the clump or in new plantings has led me to introduce it for the benefit of hybridizers, and lovers of Gudrun. For Wabashine is essentially Gudrun grown up. It has a little more flare and better substance, and is a cold rather than a warm white. The falls have a definite tint of heliotrope that disappears after the bloom is fully expanded. The type of branching is unsurpassed, but there are often only two of the deeply-set branches and the terminal, which latter has three buds, giving a very long season. Fertile pollen, but difficult to pod. Has set pods to SUMMIT and CRITERION. EM to L. 42" (WABASH x GUDRUN) \$5.00

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## Our Members Write . . .

### WHY NOT!

New inventions are marked "Patent Pending" until the patent files are searched to see that the new invention does not infringe on any existing patent. Why should we not list varieties submitted for registration, REGISTRATION PENDING until the variety had a chance to be seen and grown in many parts of the country and has received a satisfactory rating from a majority of the judges in a majority of the regions. Ratings should reflect performance in the judges home region only and the best of the judges acknowledge it should reflect whether he thinks it differs enough from the other varieties in its class to win a REGISTERED AIS. This as in the case of Patents Pending would not hinder the sale of the new variety to the hybridizers who are always on the look out for pollen and seed parents, and to the people who always like to try the newest varieties, but the addition of the word *Pending* would be a guide for the "Plain Dirt Gardeners." God love 'em. —BARBARA SCHROEDER, 3322 N. Street, N.W., Washington 7, D.C.

### POOR POLICY

Can you not use some influence to stop the registration of names similar to others already in use? I'm thinking now of Goldwing (Nic.) and Gold Wings (Heller). The first was 1934 and the last 1948. The first has been widely distributed, I know. I grew it for years and know it was grown in many sections. It went to many gardens from mine—so the name is not obsolete. I feel very strongly that unless a name has never been used (by that I mean an iris sent out and not recalled) it should not be re-issued. The same thing with Claret Cup (Mead) and Claret Cup (Hill-Son). Mr. Mead sent Claret Cup out and it will be found growing

(I am sure) in gardens—though not in specialists' gardens. One of the reasons for the formation of the Iris Society was to clear up the question of names. Now we seem to be headed toward mixing them up again. It is poor policy. I could take the 1939 Check List and show you many, many names too near in spelling and therefore apt to cause confusion. —MRS. JOHN EDGAR HIRES, "Rehobeth," Strafford, Cayne Co., Pennsylvania.

### "POPULAR" OR "SELECTIVE"?

In the October Bulletin, our "Scotty" of Region 18 presented some interesting comment on the 1952 Symposium, based on a note I had sent him on my unmarked ballot. I do appreciate the nice things he said about me, but I don't know whether I quite like getting in the Bulletin via the back door. If I had known I was writing for publication, I might have been a little more careful of my choice of phrases, like "hopelessly outclassed" for instance. I can appreciate that to those who have classed any of those so noted varieties as their especial favorites, be they judges or members at large, this appellation might well make them "see red."

Now, first let me say that I did not intend in my short note to belittle the great number of members who have joined our Society obviously because they enjoy iris. What I intended to convey was that because we have a system of Judges, appointed because of their longer or more concentrated association with iris and presumably because this contact has given them greater discernment in varietal selection, these Judges are in a better position to inform the members as to the best or most desirable iris.

Which brings up the first point of difference in the evaluation of the 1952 Symposium. Now as it stands, Scotty is right in avowing that the list does



not pretend to be the "100 Best Irises." But I shall still hold to my premise that what the Iris World wants as well as what the general gardening public looks to us for, is a list of the "100 Best Irises," based on the opinions of those considered most qualified.

In my note, I suggested that, of 39 iris listed which I considered had no place in the final Symposium selection (I said 40, but must have miscounted in listing), 25 of them would make the first 100. I wasn't so far wrong here, as 18 of them actually did, and in the recap of Region 18 votes, three more were in the next ten in popularity. But to refer to a couple of specific examples: Wabash undoubtedly is an outstanding favorite, but why? First, it was the first tall, clear Amoena to make its appearance; second, it had no competition for a number of years so that it was still high in esteem when it became low in price. Hence it became available to a great number of iris lovers to whom it was the most unusual iris in their garden from the standpoint of color, at least. But with all its popular appeal it has some glaring faults which breeders have recognized and in just the past few years have succeeded in overcoming. With Mulberry Rose, which finished high in the Symposium, this is perhaps an example of the probability of getting a reasonably wide variation in preferences even among our Judges. I personally do not like Mulberry Rose because of its brown reticulation at the haft, and because it fades terribly in our hot midwestern sun. So, in my book, it would be neither "best" nor "favorite."

Then, if two of the "Hopelessly Outclassed" (I wish he hadn't repeated that so often—makes me feel worse each time) turn up high in the list note, Mr. Scott, that they didn't fare nearly so well nationally—it simply indicates that this one judge differs from the majority in these two instances. It probably follows conversely that there are at least two iris on the list at which any one person may say "How did *that* dud ever

make it?"

But your "inescapable conclusion—that those Irises—are of sufficient *excellence* to be FAVORITES—" contains a wrong premise. *Nothing* requires any measure of *excellence* to be anyone's particular Favorite. My wife, for instance, would not be without Apache. But Apache never received an H.M., so it has no standing of excellence. It may be argued that the "write in" space is provided for such favorites. Psychologically, a write in vote under the conditions of the Symposium ballot has no value except to point out that a great number of voters have a great number of favorites other than those listed as eligible varieties. I think I am right in saying that *not one* write in candidate made the top 100. On the other hand how well would, say Mexico have done if it had not been listed on the ballot?

Now, to get back to the voters, the returns from Region 18 offer a very interesting point. We have about 60 judges, and roughly 90% of them return ballots. This is an excellent record, and one reason that we are proud of our region and its accomplishments. But how many other *Members* do we have—500?—400? Even at the latter figure, only 10% contributed to what was to be the first "popular" Symposium. It would only be logical to assume that those who did vote did so because they felt somewhat qualified to select from the list presented them. Which by simple arithmetic leaves about 80% of *our members* (not of our voters) who have probably not come in contact with most of the iris listed on the ballot, or are not interested merely in comparing their favorites with those of other members.

True, these results say different things to different people. To me, it says that we have acquired in our group a number of discerning members to whom we have not extended the responsibility and privilege of judgeship, that to the extent that we provide our voters with a guide to excellence as determined by our judges our future Symposia should benefit, that by throwing the Sym-

posium open to all members you cannot separate the ballots of the informed from the uninformed, and that the Symposium as it is presently constituted has no practical value.

Surely there is a lot to be said for progress, provided all change is really progress. But here is the crux of the battle. It seems to me that a change in the Symposium from an effort to evaluate the improvements in hybridizing by choosing a list of 100 "best" iris to a general compendium of our members' likes is *not* contributing to the advancement of knowledge in Irisdom. On the basis of pure "favorite-ism" what has any member or non-member gained by learning that the tastes of the recorded voters are similar to or entirely unlike his own?

If, however, it is still agreed that a popular poll has its merits, then there are some misapplications of the major premise which ought to be corrected. On the basis of personal taste, it should neither be necessary nor proper to print a list of "eligible" varieties. If I were voting for my favorites, it would make little difference to me whether one group of judges last year or a different group ten years ago selected iris that were "good." It should simply be a matter of examining the iris one has grown or become quite familiar with, and listing the 100 he would probably retain under any circumstances of age, price, or award.

The inclusion of a "write-in" space has little practical value in a selection of this type. First, one is inclined, when he finally sits down to mark his ballot (*after* the blooming season), to select *from the printed list*, and if he is familiar with more than 100 Iris, there will be at least that many on the list which could be included as favorites without exerting too much effort to look elsewhere. The question most often is "which to eliminate?" rather than "what to add?" Then, too, any but the seasoned judge or the rugged individualist would hesitate to write in many other varieties for fear his personal

selections might seem ridiculous.

So much for the effect of the Symposium on our own members. Far beyond that, by publications in garden magazines, newspapers, and other periodicals practically around the world, our Symposia are being aimed at the overwhelming numbers of people who grow and like iris, but whom we have been unable to capture as members. What is the effect on them?

First, few of them realize, nor care, that the Symposium has been in almost a continual state of flux both as to methods of choice and intent ever since it was revived 13 years ago. (Question of information—when did we have them before and how were they conducted?) To 90% of these outside readers, our published Symposium represents the **CURRENT 100 BEST IRIS VARIETIES** *in spite of anything we may intend to make of it!* Is it then fair to our own organization to let this list degenerate to a schedule of our voting members' favorites? There are probably outside our group at least as many iris lovers as we, who are sufficiently informed to have their own opinions as to what is good, and more concisely what they like best.

In the final analysis, then our present Symposium is becoming a primer for the beginner—a guide to the person with little previous knowledge of iris, who might like to grow a few of the better liked iris, *provided they are not too expensive*. I will admit there is still a great field here, but I feel that we should leave it to the commercial growers who can and do generously provide this information thru catalog and advertising together with comparative prices to guide the novice.—ALLEN HARPER, F Street, Gashland, Mo.

#### MOHR DARK HORSES

I was very much interested in Dr. Frank B. Galyon's article "Dark Horses" of Irisdom which was in the July Bulletin.

I wholeheartedly agree with Dr. Galyon's statement that the iris William Mohr\* is worthy of some fitting honor.



He mentions its importance as an ancestor of a whole new race of iris. This fact alone, is not the only reason for some sort of special recognition. The beauty of its flower can hold its own in comparison with many of today's popular irises.

Capitola, by the way, still has not bloomed for me after two years. William Mohr, on the other hand, bloomed beautifully on a rhizome that was planted very late for this section of the country. Perhaps the fact that it bears only two flowers has caused many to overlook it. Certainly the size and beauty of the flowers on William Mohr in my garden this spring, would lead me to consider it one of the best iris on any list.

Paltec was another new iris for me and I liked its lavender blue flowers. Its foliage was quite attractive as the fans were very wide and really fan-like.

Another "Dark Horse" mentioned was Zua. This creepy, crinkled iris is most attractive.—VERONICA QUIST, 76 Nichols Ave., Brooklyn 8, New York.

(\* Iris William Mohr was voted a Special Award of Merit, by the Board of Directors in November 1952. See Minutes Director's Meeting. EDITOR'S NOTE.)

### A SHORTCOMING

I'm a new member this year. I've hesitated to pay my dues for next year—not because I can't afford it but because I feel that the \$3.50 gives so little. Perhaps its because I've been spoiled by the American Rose Society. That organization gives so much to their members, particularly the new ones. The book "What Every Rose Grower Should Know," sent to every new member is a wonderful help. Frankly, I expected similar information on iris. The American Rose Annual, another book, chuck full of information, as well as the American Rose Magazine, keeps that society in almost constant contact with members.

I'm sending in the dues for 1952-53 to try another year. Perhaps it is only a first impression and that I could be

wrong. As Horticultural Chairman of the Garden Club of Illinois, I feel it is my duty as well as pleasure to keep learning more and from authoritative sources! Besides, I am a grower of over 200 varieties of iris, so you can be sure I love that flower.—MRS. H. J. BURT, Ill.

### MOHR HELP NEEDED

I should like to see more articles about the care, feeding, cultivation and location of the Mohr family. They are problem children for me.

Also a definite remedy for ants.—MRS. L. A. CLAYTON, Rt. 2, Box 174, Pryor, Okla.

### NEBRASKA VIEWPOINT

Regarding the letter by Mrs. Butson in the October 1952 Bulletin, Our Members Write, I am in absolute agreement with her suggestions of the need for a regional performance poll. After spending what to a poor working person like me is a young fortune, for some of the latest varieties to launch a hybridizing program, I find that four years of building this collection has netted me only a few good varieties as far as performance is concerned.

I realize that conducting such a poll would pose many problems and can imagine the confusion when several people from the same area give conflicting reports on the same variety. For instance—Blue Rhythm rates tops in vigor, form, color, branching and never fails to smother itself with blooms. Its only fault—rather weak stems. That's my experience with the variety but I know at least two other gardens in town in which it has been a poor doer.

Such cases should be in the minority though and the over-all picture if everyone would co-operate would present a fairly accurate record of any variety in a given region. I notice that the majority of the better performers in my garden are from hybridizers in this area, (Sass, Whiting, Tomkins, Lyell). However, these hybridizers can not always offer the latest development in all colors such as the Kleinsorge browns and the Dave Hall pinks—so varieties from



other areas must be tried.

The browns, being a weakness of mine have cost me probably more than all other color classes combined and I must admit that most of Dr. Kleinsorge's productions are inclined to rot badly and are rather shy bloomers. This propensity for rot seems to be handed down from Jean Cayeux to Far West, a poor doer here, and Tobacco Road which is very difficult to keep growing. In view of the above I probably will not buy Argus Pheasant, the Dykes Medalist this year or the new super production of Mr. Grant Mitsch, Inca Chief, until these varieties have been tested in this locality.

For the pinks I can only say that they are so different and beautiful that they remain expensive too long. Many seem to grow well here but I can't help but think of the enormous amount of praise bestowed upon Cherie in the Bulletin for the past three years, and the Dykes Medal last year. What do I read in the October Bulletin just received?—Short stalk, only fair branching, and a cranky bloomer. Those characteristics seem to be borne out here though I really haven't had it long enough to say such is the rule.

The same could be said for many other highly recommended varieties. I have had Helen McGregor and its sister Lady Boscawen for three years. They both increase at a tremendous rate but Helen has never bloomed and Lady Boscawen this year produced only one magnificent stalk on a clump that couldn't be covered with a wash tub. These and other favorites like New Snow and Desert Song that are descended from Purissima are definitely tender for the kind of winters experienced in Nebraska.

If a regional performance record had been available the money spent on such varieties could have purchased others that grow well here. I can't offer any suggestions as to how the poll could be conducted but believe it is really needed.—JOHN WEILER, JR., R.F.D. 2, Lincoln 8, Nebr.

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR AWARD WINNERS?

After reading the column Our Members Write in the Bulletin, I find many complaints about the Dykes Medal winners and other award winners. Judging from the performance of these iris in their gardens people wonder how they ever got the Dykes Medal. A little careful consideration might answer the question. The requirements for a Dykes Medal winner as stated on page 33 of Bulletin 124 are, "In the United States it is voted on by the accredited judges of the AIS and on the specific recommendation of twenty-five or more judges it may be awarded by the Board of Directors to any variety that has received the Award of Merit not more than four full years prior to the Award year." It is to be understood, however, that the iris with highest number of votes gets the Dykes Medal if the number of votes is twenty-five or more. Below twenty-five or in case of a tie the Medal is not given.

Taking this into consideration, if enough judges around the country like the iris above all the others that meet the requirements then it gets the Dykes Medal. One can be sure that all these judges live in a climate that is favorable to the variety. The judges in the unfavorable climates assuredly will not vote for it. At least, we hope this is the case. If they are voting for everything but performance then they should change their method of voting because that is not helping the persons that are using the award winners as purchase guides. This also holds true for the Symposium of the 100 Favorite Iris. But, since the number of votes is relatively small for the number of ballots turned in, this is not the case. The judges must be considering garden performance also.

I do not condemn the award winners or the Symposium. They tell us what is considered the best but they do not tell us where the particular iris does *not* do well. So it is evident that we need another poll by which we vote on cer-

tain conditions, these being: Hardiness, resistance to wet climate, resistance to dry climate and disease resistance. A wet climate would be where there is a large amount of rainfall or where water stands in the spring such as happens where I live. The ground is shallow here and the water sits on top of the rocks until it can drain away. There are also swamps nearby, but in the summer the ground becomes very dry. A dry climate would be where the rainfall is below normal or in a desert region.

Hardiness is important in the Northern section of the country where tender iris freeze out. This also holds true in Canada and in mountainous regions where iris are grown at a high altitude thus causing freezing weather in an otherwise warm region. It is important to know what iris are tender and where there is snow and cold there usually follows the spring thaw that leaves the ground muddy for quite some time, so cold and wet are usually found in the same place. In this way the AIS could be very helpful to the average gardener in helping him obtain iris that are sure to grow for him. The dues are relatively small in comparison with what we lose in iris purchases each year.

This poll should not go against the breeder and he should be willing to state the climatic conditions under which his iris are developed. In the case of hardiness, however, it would be well for breeders to send trials to cold regions where they would be given a severe test which some of the breeders seem to be doing now. If they do not prove hardy then they would not be recommended for the North.

In order to get the average gardener interested in the iris, we must produce iris that will grow for them. If they see us continually have trouble with them they are not going to become interested in newer varieties and will stick by the old ones. The average person does not know about the various diseases and pests and the tenderness of some varieties and would simply judge modern iris inferior to the older

sorts. Neither do they care to bother with all the extra work that is involved in treating and caring for such iris. They like iris that will grow unattended and produce good floriferous clumps.—DOLORES HUMMEL, St. Paul Park, Minn.

### CLANCY RAISES BOOM

It seems, as "Clancy," I am acquiring a reputation for tossing nothing but brickbats! In the event that you believe, as one AIS member did, (and he told me so!) that "that woman who wrote "Clancy" must be a complete crackpot," let me hasten to say that this is an effort to stem the tide! I certainly *do* have many irises which I find not only completely satisfactory, but something to really rave about. There are plenty of irises over which I go "hogwild," even if I have griped about a few others. I have no intention of being hypercritical. I love all my irises. I am a fanatic on the subject, as I suppose every AIS member is.

Since I gave Helen McGregor such a knocking about, (and I'm still hearing about that!) let me first speak of two of her progeny. Jane Phillips and Helen McKenzie are outstanding. I have grown both for two years; the increase and hardiness leaves absolutely nothing to be desired. Jane Phillips is the larger of the two, with wonderful substance, clear color, and is very weather resistant. It blooms early in the season on a short stalk, so should be planted to the front of the border. Helen McKenzie, a two year old plant, had six bloom stalks, with flowers which remained perfect for days. She is a starchy, warm, but pure, white; not as large as Tranquility, but I thought Helen had more personality in the garden.

My irises are planted with varieties of like color together for a good strong color effect at blooming time. I found that Helen McKenzie put all other whites to shame! It made them all look dirty. Perhaps she should be moved in with the darker irises as a contrast, rather than with the whites.

So, although the first Helen hasn't bloomed yet, I've forgiven her all, be-



cause of her two lovely daughters. I wouldn't want to be without either of them.

Summit was nicer than Pinnacle, I thought; a larger flower with better substance. Also, the standards remained more closed than Pinnacle.

Rosa Barone, seen at Mary William-son's, was a perfectly luscious color, although the flower was not as large or as tall as some. But, for me, they don't all have to be giant size. Planted next to Sky Above, it set them both off beautifully.

Sky Above seemed the same color as Jane Phillips, smaller, but with much more flare and starchiness.

It's too bad Helen Collingwood hasn't a little more substance and staying quality in the garden, for the color is not only beautiful, but one lacking in the iris world.

Ballerina, Vanity Fair and Rosedale each differ from the other in some degree and yet are similar. Rosedale and Ballerina are nicely ruffled, while Vanity Fair is more tailored. Rosedale is darker in color and Ballerina seems to have the best form. I could see very little difference in Vanity Fair and Dolly Varden. In fact, I think I prefer Dolly Varden to Vanity Fair, and think Rosedale is the best of the four.

Rosabella is a unique pink, with some brownish purple shadings. It has a nicely rounded form.

Mary Randall is heavily ruffled and probably the pinkest pink so far. But here's one pink I would like better if it had a reddish beard instead of tangerine.

Black Satin is one of my favorites. The flowers are small and short on a one year plant, but form and depth of color was perfect to my way of thinking. It is so dark, it needs to be planted with light blues or light yellows to make it stand out in the garden.

As a clump, Cloud Cap put on a magnificent show. Two-year-old plants had five bloom stalks, huge flowers, and wonderful carrying qualities in the garden. Too bad the falls are so straight hanging.

Argus Pheasant, looked better this year than ever before. It certainly lived up to its Dykes Medal award, although I would appreciate greater increase.

Pretty Quadroon didn't please me as much as it had before, but I still wouldn't give it up. In the sun, there is a glistening sheen that makes it almost iridescent.

Black Orchid, planted beside Sable, offered only greater size than the older variety. Many people couldn't tell which was which!

Danube Wave is a favorite medium blue. Could be grown for its fragrance alone.

Mirror Lake is similar to Distance, with perhaps a larger flower. However, Distance is still the most prolific in both bloom and increase in the garden.

I like the older Blue Frills and Gulf Stream for their all-one-color effect in the garden.

To me, Garden Glory still is better than either Quechee or Technicolor, even though the flowers are somewhat crowded on a short stem.

Azure Skies is not new but its starched look and prolific bloom still keeps it among the "best" for me.

Sunray, Ruffled Bouquet and Tranquil Moon all increase well and perform as good irises should. Tranquil Moon is probably my favorite of the three. However, I'd not be without any of them. Only this year did it occur to me that there really are not very many good pale yellow or lemon irises.

I liked Alline Rodgers, but here in Urbana, Mr. D. Paul Wickersham has a seedling which I believe is even better. Antique, a tentative name given to the seedling, is perhaps the most unique and different in its coloring of any I've seen yet. It is darker than Alline, but has some of the same hues in its make-up. I find it almost impossible to describe. The best I can do is to say it is a combination of Erythrite red and Oxblood red, with some Yellow Ochre at the hafts. (Horticultural Color Chart II)  
—MRS. V. R. FREDERICK, 145 Tanglewood Dr., R.R. 1, Urbana, Ohio.



# Robin's



# Roost

FRANK WALKER, Calif.—I use a loose-leaf notebook for a card file, 8½ x 11, with a page for each variety named or numbered. The page is headed with name, hybridizer, year of registration, etc. at the top. Next I list its family tree as far back as I can carry it, 11 or 12 generations sometimes. The rest of the page contains data on when and from whom I got the plant, how much it cost, when and where planted and transplanted, honors, if any, notes on growing habits, description and season, whether it bloomed each year or not and (later) a color picture of it. On the back of the page goes the stud record (whether used as pod or pollen parent), with a full record of what it was crossed with and symbols to show take or no-take, number of seeds, first and second year germination, planting out and finally bloom. Lots of work, but fun at that.

TELL MUHLESTEIN, Utah—I still feel that true blues will come with the use of Hoogiana whether used in combination with other blues, whites or even the shell pinks. And as for orange, I doubt if we ever get it working from the yellow side, but it should come from the pink side. I bloomed dozens of them the past two years, *real* orange with deepest orange beards although they are as yet in mostly pastel tones from things like Salmon Shell, Apricot Glory and some of my Pink Formal seedlings. I no longer try for orange from the yellows though I suppose one could combine the yellow-oranges and the pink-oranges and in a few generations get some very creditable orange tones.

WALTER WELCH, Ind.—When breeding for orange, or any other character, I select for that one character only, entirely disregarding any other quality or fault until that character has been developed to its maximum. Then I start to correct the faults. That is, you breed for only one thing at a time, especially

in pioneer work such as we are doing with the dwarfs, and I suppose if you are working for an entirely new character in any group the same thing would apply.

Arenaria seeds with their little white Regelia collars at the tip ends of seeds smaller than other dwarfs are hard pellets often slow to germinate, but if planted just after ripening they do very well. I usually plant them in a small box with no bottom in it, sunk into the ground with first a layer of good drainage material, then ordinary garden soil with some sand and either peat-moss or compost mixed in it. Then plant the seed in rows with about an inch of pure sand over them and an old burlap sack on top of that to hold the moisture. The sand keeps out mold, mossy growth and weeds. Be careful not to mistake the seedlings for grass when they first come up. Also watch in spring so the leaves won't come up through the burlap, or you will pull them up. Transplant dwarf seedlings when an inch or so high to a sunny spot well fertilized with compost for bloom the next spring.

TOM CRAIG, Calif.—Good parents for stem are Purissima, California Peach and Mariposa Mia. Capitola gives quite a few good stems on hybrids but it is harder to get a good stem from William Mohr. I've found the most important thing in getting good germination is to keep the seedbed moist and never let it dry out once the seed is planted here in Southern California.

Every batch of seedlings I grow teaches me anew to choose both parents for quality and performance in themselves and all their relatives and sacrifice these really important considerations only when you cannot avoid it, and then only in one parent. If you compromise this quality for immediate color effect, breed back to quality immediately. What determines male and female in my crosses is dominantly the

characteristics of the flowers themselves though seldom can the cross be made in both directions with equal ease, and of course, the availability of stock suitable for use is often the greatest limitation of all. For me, pink-buds give awful junk when outcrossed to non-pinks, except for a rare clear pink with something that carries that color as a recessive. Of course, if you are working for some new color, via the pinks, all you can do is to outcross them, and then intercross the resulting seedlings with each other, or back cross them to one or the other parent or something similar.

Signal patches and blazes are often mixed up in the amateur mind. Signal patches come from onco breeding; blazes come in pure *Eupogon* lines and are usually cool blue flushes on warm blends or on white or cream or some other light color.

MRS. ED CONRAD, Ida.—Last spring I saw so many pollen thrips crawling over my blooms that I was afraid they might contaminate my crosses. Yet, I hated to tear up my flowers by removing the falls, as I had only a new bed to work with and not too many blossoms. Well, I had an idea, and though it does perhaps cut down on the pods, at least I'm sure of the authenticity of those I got! I put pollen on all 3 stigmas, just to be sure as possible of a take, using freshly ripened pollen. Then I removed the anthers, and glued the stigmatic lip tightly against the overhanging portion of the style with a wee bit of scotch tape. The thrips didn't worry me a bit then. I've found that this method helps in rainy weather too, just so the bloom is freshly opened, and the rain hasn't got onto the stigma to dilute its natural moisture too much.

I wrote each cross on tiny pieces of paper, struck with tape around the stalk; it holds up beautifully. When I ran short of tape, I notched each end of a popsicle stick, cut it in half, tied a string around each notched place and wrote my crosses on them with waterproof pencil. Of course, the wired

wooden tree-labels would save the trouble of notching them and bothering with string if you happen to have them.

MRS. GEORGE ROBINSON, Mich.—I use ordinary little marking tags for my crosses, the kind used in garment stores with a small cardboard tag with a string through a hole in one end. They cost about 25¢ a hundred at a stationery store. I mark the cross and slip the tag around the flower stem through the loop. On one side I mark the number of the cross for the year (49-10, etc.) and on the other side the names of pod and pollen parents.

IDA ST. HELENS, Kansas—I've found that in some varieties the ovary part of the stalk directly beneath the flower flares out in a pronounced curve while others have a perfectly straight stalk. The first is far more apt to be female for though they may have perfectly good pollen, they very often do not, and they certainly set seed much more easily than the straight ones. The straight ones will sometimes set seed too, but always with more difficulty. I wonder if there is a difference in the pollen too of the two types and on which kind there is apt to be no pollen at all. Who knows?

ALVA WILSON, Iowa—When you are working for only one factor the ratio is 1 recessive to 3 dominants (in diploids). With 2 factors of difference, you will get both recessives once out of 16. 3 factors will come about 1 out of 264, and 4 on an average of once out of 1,256 with all possible sorts of combinations between. When working with tetraploids the ratio is naturally far greater.

MRS. ZEH DENNIS, N.J.—I used DDT and Chlordane for borers. The latter really did the trick on glad thrips, so every time I sprayed the glads I gave the iris a shot too, so I don't know which it was, but I certainly got rid of the borers. For worms I tried pulling off the sheaths from beneath the pods and they just disappeared. Won't live in the open, I guess.

MRS. JOHN D. FREEMAN, Ariz.—I had a lot of fall bloom a year or so ago and



I just couldn't resist trying a few crosses with old pollen kept in the ice box since the preceding April. I got several good pods too. Who says old pollen won't keep? Some of the pollen used which produced pods was Little Elsa, Golden Eagle, Siegfried, Tiffany and Snoqualmie.

MRS. ETHEL SMITH, Miss.—Our soil is very rich, acid and full of humus, so iris have a tendency to rot. I've found that by mixing up half and half wood ashes and sharp sand to add to my beds I almost entirely do away with the rot. I set the roots deep and right under each rhizome I put a cupful of this mixture, so it rests right on top of it. Then I dust them with sand or ashes in the spring when we have too much rain. Of course, they need sunshine that can reach them several hours a day and good drainage. Together the three act as the proverbial "Ounce of prevention."

JOHN OHL, Kansas—To judge if an iris is really blue, you must see it under artificial light. Most of them look lavender or pink, but a few turn greyish. If you have to set iris very late when there might be danger of winter kill just mound the soil about three inches over the top like you would for roses. I do this and have never had any trouble at all with heaving or winter kill on late set iris. I leave all the foliage on mine in the fall and burn everything clean in early spring. Everything that doesn't burn down the rows is later cleaned off with a weed-burner. It doesn't hurt the iris if done early. It does kill insects and winter grass, leaves the ash for plantfood, destroys any insect pests or diseases lurking in the old tops and clears the patch clean. I do it as soon as frost is out of the ground before active growth starts. It sets the plants back a week to ten days which helps avoid damage from late frosts.

I like gypsum better than sulphur for treating cut ends to avoid rot. I treat all iris with Semesan for half an hour before planting to avoid botrytis rot. When I got it twice I dug out all

soil and affected rhizomes and burned everything and have had none since. Perhaps the treatment stopped it—I hope.

MRS. LEONA DUQUAINE, Wisc.—I was surprised to hear that many growers use compost on their iris. Where I live that would be the surest way to have rot. We can't cover deeply for that reason. Evergreen branches make good mulch here for late set plants, but corn-stalks are better if one can get them. I plant new rhizomes apart from my main garden just in case of infection and so far have never had any rot.

MRS. CORINNE ZIRBEL, N.Y.—Here is an idea used many years ago to protect individual blooms for carrying to shows. Fold sheets of soft tissue paper into strips about three inches wide and wrap in and around beneath flower heads until you have sufficient volume to hold the flower more or less rigid so it won't shake around while being moved. Tests here at Cornell showed that roses cut at 4 P.M. had more of what it takes to keep the flower well, but whether iris are the same or not, I don't know.

MRS. GLEN SUITER, Ida.—Here is an idea for carrying stalks of iris to shows and having them arrive in at least fair condition. Have a framework made of inch lumber that will just fit nicely into the back seat of your car about 4 to 6 inches deep. Then mount hardware cloth with a mesh of about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and inch or so beneath the top of the framework, and another piece of the hardware cloth on top with the meshes directly over that of the bottom piece. Then stick the stems completely through both layers of the hardware cloth which will hold them rigidly in place with no slipping or turning. Leave the car windows up so there will be no wind to whip the petals and your chances are more than good of getting your flowers to the show in quite nice condition. Slightly smaller mesh may be used and for table iris or intermediates  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch mesh may be large enough.

MRS. LUCILE CONRAD, Ida.—A year or



so ago I had a very tiny rhizome of Gray Cloud, hardly as big as my little finger. I put an ordinary fruit jar over it and when the seller heard of it he wrote post-haste to tell me to, "Take it off, I'd rot it!" So I took it off, but in about a week I decided it would pass out anyhow, so I slipped the jar back on. I'm awfully bull-headed! Well, next spring it was the thriftiest looking little thing you ever saw with 5 or 6 fans and not the slightest intention of rotting. Yes, since then I put fruit jars on anything I set out that looks weak or sickly. It's no good if the plant has rot of any kind, but for just plain puny-ness it works wonders.

MRS. C. W. VALLETTE, Ida.—I can heartily endorse Lucile's use of fruit jar cloches. Last year I had several weak, small plants sent to me from various sources. None of the plants seemed to have enough life in them to even want to try to live although the rhizome was sound and no sign of disease. A few I let go on their own and I lost them over winter or early this spring. Those over which I put a jar last fall not only lived over, but are now making normal growth, and I'm sure it was nothing but the jar that saved them. For example, one was a rhizome taken from a plant on which every stalk had precious seed pods, so this was obtained only with difficulty and had no roots at all and not enough of the rhizome to call it such—not more than enough to hold the leaves together and half an inch to spare. It looked hopeless, but I popped it under a fruit jar and left the jar on for 2 months or more until really hot weather came on. And that iris bloomed heavily the next year while two sister seedlings with nice big rhizomes failed to bloom at all and had less increase. Another, a tiny, tiny thing was set out late last fall, under a quart jar. It was from "Down South" and not used to cold winters, but though 3 other iris from the same source died over the winter this one puny one lived and now has two nice fans. And another one, with a rhizome no bigger

than my thumbnail with 2 tiny roots and the top pulled completely out sat for 3 months with no sign of growth until finally in despair of saving it (it was a \$10.00 iris too) I slipped a jar over it and left it on all winter. It didn't bloom this spring, but it is a nice thrifty plant now. Yes, fruit jars are wonderful nurses for puny iris. Only don't leave them on during scorching hot weather as the iris beneath them may cook. It's surprising though just how hot it can get before this happens.

MRS. WILMA GREENLEE, Ill.—A good tall to breed with chamaeiris dwarfs for intermediates must have flaring or horizontal falls, closed or domed standards, stiff heavy substance and good branching. These qualities are all pretty much missing in most of the older named dwarfs which are mostly in shades of purple or yellow with a few not-too-good whites. Therefore, I prefer a bright dominant color in the tall parent to use with them. But color comes last with me. One can inbreed to obtain recessive traits such as one must do with *plicata*, *amoena* and pink-bud patterns or colors. For instance, *Angelus*, *Blue Valley* and *Bryce Canyon* all have the above characteristics and might be good with dwarfs for improved intermediates.

MRS. BIRDIE PADAVICH, Wash.—I save all paper cups from picnics and have 200 or more of them. When I gather a seed-pod, I write its name and put the tag with the cross on it in the cup and set it away on a shelf until ready to use after shelling it out so it won't mold. I write the number of seed on the slip in the cup. After it is thoroughly dry I can stack one cup in another and save lots of space. The cups are very handy and I like the heavy cardboard ones with handles on the side best.

MRS. THOMAS DOUGHTERY, N.J.—I plant seeds an inch deep in October in rows a foot apart sprinkling a little dirt over them and fill the row with clean sharp sand well pressed down. Then I cover the bed with chicken wire to keep cats from bothering.

TELL MUHLESTEIN, Utah—Don't worry if your seed gets a little mold on it. I've planted it with anywhere from a little mold to a lot and it doesn't seem to make too much difference in germination except that sometimes the moldy seed comes up best. There are so many molds and bacteria in the soil perhaps sometimes the mold is beneficial, not harmful. Not that I'd advise letting the seed get moldy on purpose, only don't throw it out if it does get moldy. It might be perfectly good.

ROBERT KEHR, Neb.—Remember how I sent out an SOS for information on how to get better germination? Well, last fall I had so many seeds I dared take a risk and as I expected my usual low germination I planted them so close together they nearly touched and some actually were lying on top of each other. After planting in late September, I mulched lightly with lawn clippings and kept them moist until freezing weather. Then as soon as it began to warm up this spring, I started watering them again. They were never dry from the day they were planted. Germination began in mid-April and in a few days they were so thick I began to worry about where I'd put them out. Of 178

crosses all but 4 came up, from 50 to 90%.

BENNETT JONES, Ore.—Mr. Schreiner tells me that if you have trouble with heaving especially with dwarfs mix a lot of sand in the soil, as it is caused by too heavy a soil. They grow in very sandy soil in their native land and can stand as much as 40% sand mixed around them. They have short roots, not over 6 inches long, so only food near the plant is available. I gather that he uses equal parts of sand, compost and good soil.

MRS. GEORGE STORMAN, Calif.—I put chicken manure in a big pile with the strawy litter and all the weeds hoed out of the garden then let it stand a year turning it and mixing it at intervals until well rotted. I have a large form, and scooped out with a lot of dirt from inside, it is almost like a compost pile and how my iris do love this compost.

MAMIE THOMPSON, N.C.—I do love the way cuts heal up when I dip my knife in a pan of Chlorox after making each cut or when digging out rot. Wipe knife with a soft cloth before making a new cut to prevent carrying infection. The Chlorox sure heals them in record time.

## GILBERT H. WILD & SON

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# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

THE BULLETIN welcomes questions from its readers. The answers are from a panel of experts selected from The Staff, Committee Chairmen, the Board of Directors, Officers of the Society and other sources. Address your questions to The Editor, American Iris Society, Franklin Rd., Brentwood, Tenn.

Q. *How do you account for the striped foliage of I. pallida variegata, and is it possible to transfer this characteristic to modern garden irises?*—EARL R. ROBERTS, 2300 Roosevelt Ave., Indianapolis 18, Ind.

A. The striped foliage that you mentioned may be due to a simple Medelian recessive gene, a dominant gene, a chromosomal aberration, or it may be cytoplasmic and therefore maternal in inheritance. I would suggest crossing it reciprocally with some other diploid having normal green foliage to test the manner of inheritance and cross it with the tetraploids to which you wish to transfer it. From the latter cross you will get a very few seeds if it is a diploid, and the triploid plants to be expected from these seeds will have to be crossed again to the tetraploid and the progeny self pollinated or sib crossed to bring the character to expression if it is a recessive.  
—L. F. RANDOLPH.

Q. *I have read of iris having four standards and four falls. I wonder if this characteristic could be "fixed" to breed true?*—EARL R. ROBERTS, 2300 Roosevelt Ave., Indianapolis 18, Ind.

A. Freaks with more or less than the usual number of flower parts usually are accidents of development. Such freak characteristics are not inherited, unless a mutation affecting the germ cells has occurred.—L. F. RANDOLPH.

Q. *I am writing you in regard to a question on the culture of iris. I was required, unfortunately because of another problem, to dig up some iris bulbs and plants very recently. The ground was and is still frozen somewhat and I am dubious concerning the success of replanting at this time.*

*Please advise whether or not, and how, I may store the iris bulbs over the winter. If it is impossible to store the bulbs over winter, is there some method that I may use to properly replant them now?*  
—KENNETH P. YATES, III.

A. In the south planting iris in the wintertime does not present any particular problem because the iris roots will send out their little feeders during the warm spells that are interspersed between the



cold ones. As far as you are concerned I believe you had better be very careful, otherwise you will have considerable damage to the rhizomes. If you have a cold frame handy I would suggest that you heel out the rhizomes that you had to dig in the coldframe until spring has come to stay.

If there are just a few of them you can, of course, pot them up and keep them indoors in a cool place until the roots have formed in the pot. Then you can take the pots out and plant the iris rhizomes, dirt and all, in their permanent positions and I don't think you will run any risk of heaving.

A third method, of course, would be to simply plant the rhizomes out of doors in their permanent positions and cover with a heavy mulch something like salt hay or excelsior and hope that they do not get heaved out of the ground before the little rootlets are formed.

Q. *I have raised iris from seed for some time just as a hobby. Last fall a year ago I met a lady from Idaho by the name of Mrs. Stone who is also interested in raising them from seed. She gave me a batch of mixed seed she had saved. I planted them last fall in September. They came up and grew very well this summer and one of these plants bloomed this fall in September just one year from the time seed was planted, five months from the time it came through the ground this spring. Is this unusual? It is the first time it has ever happened for me.*—MRS. J. E. BUTSON, Rt. 2, Box 241, Umatilla, Oregon.

A. The fact that your seedling bloomed one year from planting and only five months from germination *is unusual*. The fact that it bloomed in the fall is not particularly unusual. This characteristic will have to be checked over a period of years to determine if it will always act in this manner, for many iris bloom in the fall in years when conditions are favorable.—G. D.

Q. *In moving my iris I sometimes find a plant with small enlargements on the hair like roots. Does this sound like root knot nematode work? Can you recommend an effective treatment to use on growing plants?*—L. W. WARNER, Warner Iris Gardens, Sunnyside, Washington.

#### NEMATODES:

The Bulletin is asked repeatedly if nematodes attack iris roots and if so, is there any safe method of eradication without having to dig up the iris plants.

The answers to these two questions are first, according to experts in the Agricultural Department of the University of Tennessee, nematodes are not supposed to attack the root system of a tall bearded iris. There is, however, some slight evidence that in the absence of other plant material, iris are affected to a very limited extent in heavily infested soil.

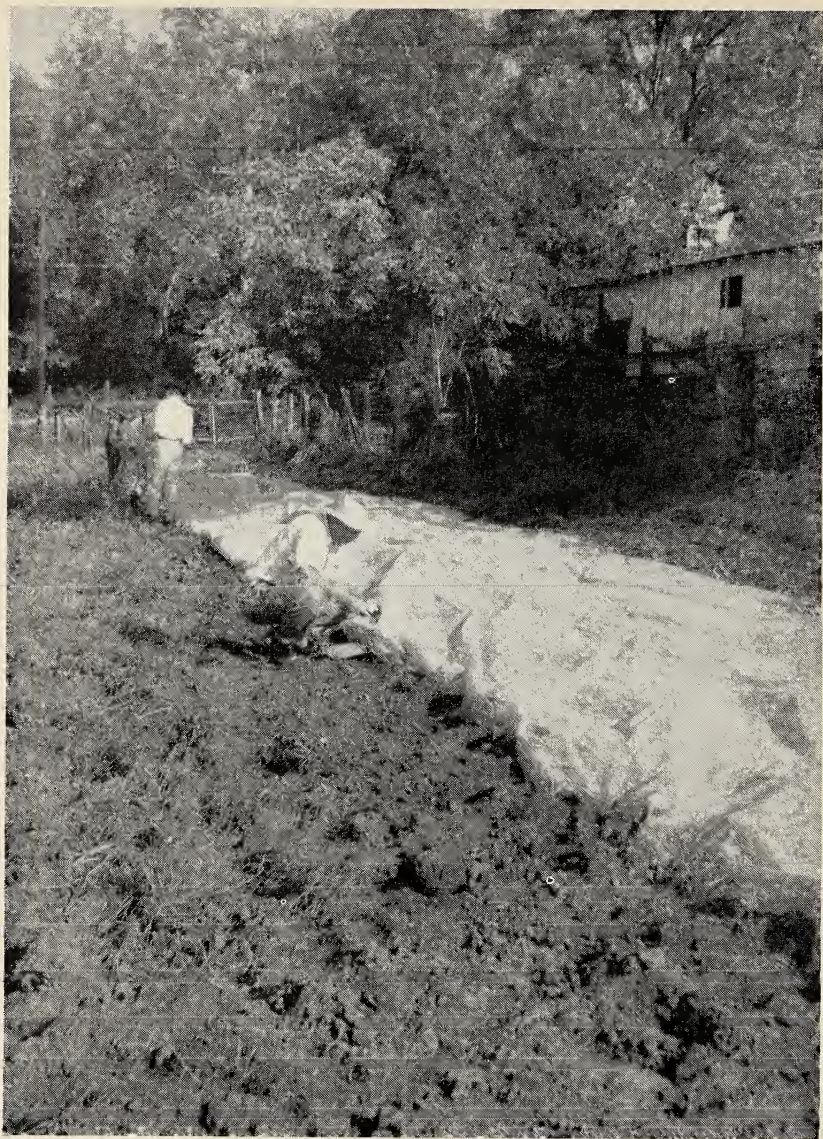


Figure 1. County Agent Oscar L. Farris (Davidson County, Tenn.) inserts rubber hose under plastic cover preparatory to gassing seed bed with methyl bromide.  
photo by douglas



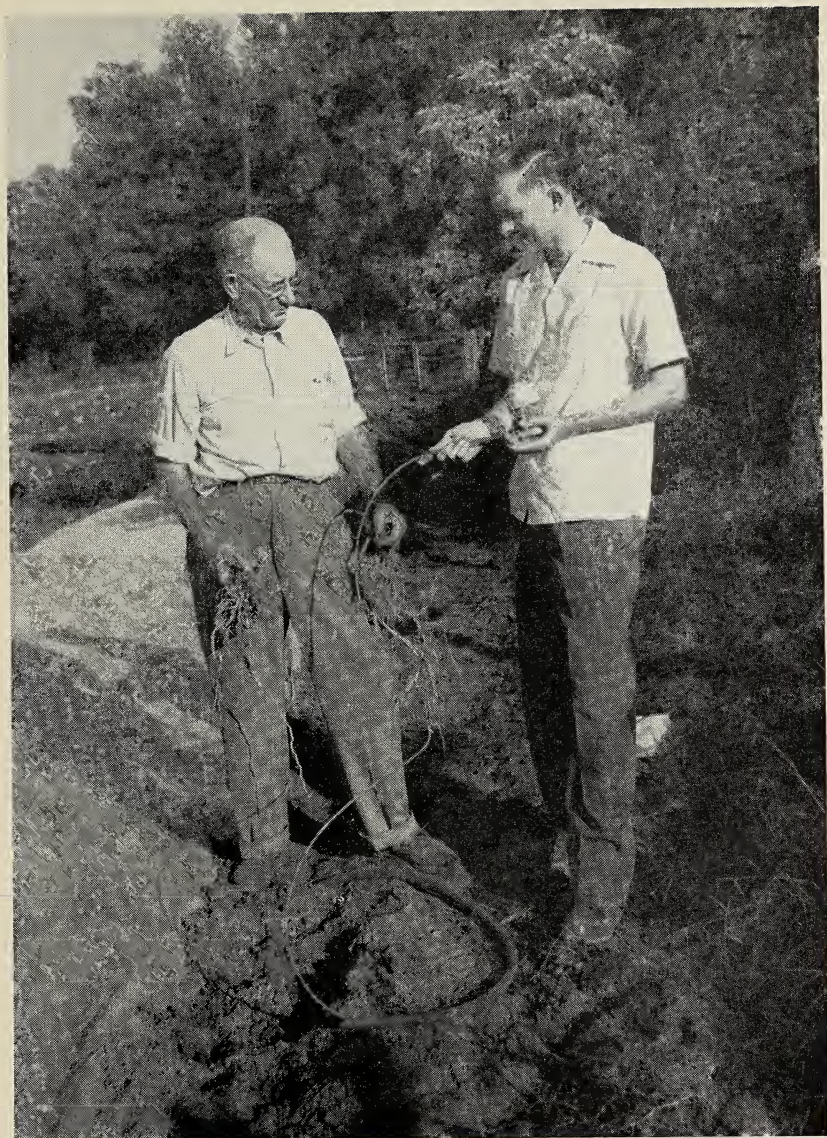


Figure 2. Mr. Roy L. Milton, Tobacco Specialist with the Tennessee Extension Service holds nematode infested roots of okra plants while (Dirt Dobber) Sam Caldwell handles gas applicator.

photo by douglas



To the second question the answer is that so far, chemicals strong enough to kill an infestation of nematodes in the top six or seven inches of the soil, will also destroy all other plant and animal life. Perennial plants should be dug and if they exhibit the characteristic "Root Knots," should be burned. Iris may be root trimmed without harm and thus the necessity of burning is avoided.

One of the most effective treatments for nematodes is the method perfected by the Dow Chemical Co. of gassing the soil with methyl-bromide. Two steps in this operation are shown in the accompanying photographs. First the soil is turned but not harrowed. The next step is to outline the area to be covered by plowing a furrow on all four sides and throwing the dirt away from the area to be gassed.

After the plastic cover (Figure 1.) is placed over this area, the soil is plowed back over the edge of the cover. Short lengths of rubber hose are inserted at intervals so that the plastic tube of the gas applicator may penetrate to the center of the area. In (Figure 2.) the hose, plastic tube and one pound can of gas are clearly shown.

The cover is left in position for twenty-four hours. At the end of this time all bacteria, fungi, nematodes, worms, etc., and vegetation such as bermuda grass, nut-grass, Johnson grass and other obnoxious weeds have been totally destroyed.

A new material that can be watered onto the soil and which will kill all weed seeds, fungi, bacteria, nematodes, etc. is being manufactured by the Innis McSpadden Co. of New York under the trade name of Allyl Alcohol. It is distributed by the Lavacide Co. and has been under test by Dr. Clayton of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland.

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